













# **Indian Jute Mills Association**

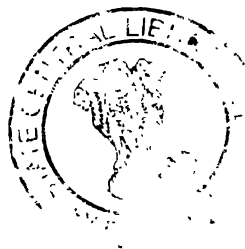
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## **REPORT**

**OF THE**

## **COMMITTEE**

**For the year ended 31st December 1941**



**Calcutta:**

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**1942.**



# Indian Jute Mills Association

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## Sixty-Third Report of the Committee 1941

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# **INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION.**

**PROCEEDINGS, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

*Friday, 20th February 1942.*



# Indian Jute Mills Association

ROYAL EXCHANGE,

Calcutta, 20th February, 1942.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN JUTE MILLS  
ASSOCIATION held this day at 3 P.M.

PRESENT :

MR. W. A. M. WALKER,

C.B.E., M.L.A.,

Chairman, Presiding.

„ D. I. DUFF

G. M. GARRIE

W. M. WHYTE

H. D. CUMBERBATCH

The Gourepore Co., Ltd.

„ Nuddea Mills Co., Ltd.

„ Samnuggur Jute Factory  
Co., Ltd.

„ Titaghur Jute Factory Co.,  
Ltd.

„ Victoria Jute Co., Ltd.

„ Angus Co., Ltd.

„ Albion Jute Mills Co., Ltd.

„ Belvedere Jute Mills Co.,  
Ltd.

„ Budge-Budge Jute Mills  
Co., Ltd.

„ Caledonian Jute Mills Co.,  
Ltd.

„ Cheviot Mills Co., Ltd.

„ Delta Jute Mills Co., Ltd.

„ Hastings Mill, Ltd.

„ Lothian Jute Mills Co.,  
Ltd.

„ National Co., Ltd.

„ New Central Jute Mills  
Co., Ltd.

„ Orient Jute Mills Co., Ltd.

MR. J. H. BURDER „ I. G. KENNEDY, M.L.A.	... ... ... ...	{	The Kamarhatty Co., Ltd.
			„ Kanknarrah Co., Ltd.
			„ Howrah Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Reliance Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
„ D. M. STARK „ A. W. REID	... ...	{	„ Ganges Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
			„ Rameshwara Jute Mills, Ltd.
„ F. LAW „ D. B. SCOTT	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	{	„ Auckland Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Clive Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Dalhousie Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Kinnison Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Lansdowne Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Lawrence Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Naihati Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Northbrook Jute Co., Ltd.
„ J. R. WALKER, F.T.I., • M.L.A. „ R. O. DAVIDSON „ J. M. PATON	... ... ... ...	{	„ Standard Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Union Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Empire Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Kelvin Jute Co., Ltd.
			„ Presidency Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Soorah Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
„ R. L. MANNERS	... ... ...	{	„ Chitavalsah Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Nellimarla Jute Mills Co., Ltd.
			„ Champdany Jute Co., Ltd.
„ G. M. WILSON	... ...	{	„ Wellington Jute Mills.
			„ Hooghly Mills Co., Ltd.
„ T. B. NIMMO „ J. GALLIE	... ...	{	„ Societe Generale Industrielle de Chandernagore.
			The Anglo-India Jute Mills Co., Ltd.

		The Alexandra Jute Mills, Ltd.	
SIR THOMAS LAMB		„ Alliance Jute Mills Co., Ltd.	
MR. F. BLAIR		„ Craig Jute Mills, Ltd.	
		„ Waverly Jute Mills Co., Ltd.	
„ I. A. CLARK	...	}	„ Khardah Co., Ltd.
„ D. L. PENNY	...		
„ R. ROBERTSON	...	}	„ India Jute Co., Ltd.
„ A. G. ADAMSON	...		„ Megna Mills Co., Ltd.
„ W. F. SCOTT-KERR	...	}	„ Barnagore Jute Factory Co., Ltd.
			„ Bally Jute Co., Ltd.
„ N. W. KENNEDY	...	}	„ Fort Gloster Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
			„ Fort William Jute Co., Ltd.
„ BABULALL RAJGHRIA	...		„ Kedarnath Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
„ S. R. KANORIA	...		„ Shree Luchminarain Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
„ J. C. MORGEI	...		„ Shree Mahadeo Jute Mills.
„ K. P. GOENKA	...	}	„ Hukumchand Jute Mills, Ltd.
„ D. P. GOENKA	...		
„ M. P. BIRLA	...		„ Birla Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
„ K. D. JALAN	...	{	„ Shree Hanaman Jute Mills.
			„ Bengal Jute Mill Co., Ltd.
„ A. W. ADAMJEE	...		„ Adamjee Jute Mills, Ltd.

Dr. W. G. Macmillan, the Association's Chief Chemist, attended by invitation.

The CHAIRMAN, Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E., M.L.A., addressed the meeting as follows:—

“GENTLEMEN,

With your permission, I will take the notice convening the meeting as read.



“Prior to my general remarks on the work done and observations on the industry's position generally, I wish to comment on the Association's financial position. The accounts for 1941 have been circulated to you with the report and reveal that expenditure from the Association's general funds has been kept at a low figure when regard is paid to the extent and nature of the work performed. All told it is but some Rs. 7,000 greater than in 1940 and the main increases are to be found in printing charges and in the special charges which the Association have had to meet in various items of their work. The amounts expended was less than anticipated because of the reduction in legal charges last year as compared with the previous year and as a result a small surplus of over Rs. 18,000 has been transferred to capital account which now stands at roughly a lakh and a quarter of rupees.

“A small surplus was also gained in the Research Department accounts but as will be seen there are deficits in the Labour Officer scheme and in the working time agreement and special account which are recoverable from members and will be done during the course of this year. These accounts are matters for consideration separate from the main funds of the Association which will be dealt with more fully in my remarks on the rate of subscription for 1942.

“I am fully satisfied that the Association's financial position is sound.

“I now propose to review the position of the Industry and in doing so I shall follow the lines on which I addressed you last year :—

- (1) The general situation during the past year and its effect on the Industry.
- (2) The position regarding the raw material and manufactured goods markets.
- (3) War supplies and War efforts.
- (4) Labour.
- (5) Research.

## *(2) The General Situation.*

"When I addressed you last year, the position of the Industry could hardly be termed as flourishing, although by virtue of our minimum price arrangements we were more than holding our heads above water. We were still working 45 hours per week with one week a month closed down and had with a certain amount of misgiving, arranged to work the whole month during February, reverting to the closed week again in March.

"In concluding my address to you last year, I ventured on a note of subdued optimism regarding the future of the Industry but I never anticipated even under the most favourable circumstances that we should see such a rapid and substantial improvement. From April to the end of August we were able to continue our 45 hours working week without any closed down periods and, as a result of more and more shipping space becoming available, the position from September onwards enabled us to increase our working hours to 54 per week on 13th October. Early in November large Government orders and a continued supply of freight necessitated a further increase in working hours and on the requisition being received from more than 51% of the voting strength of the Association, your Committee decided to recommend a 60 hours working week. This was ratified at a special meeting of members held on 6th November and was put into force immediately, on obtaining the necessary exemptions from the provisions of the Factory Act. At the end of December the very heavy increase in the hessian stocks caused some apprehensions but on a careful examination of the position, your Committee were convinced that the increase was merely of a temporary nature due to delays in arrivals of steamers. From the information available to them, they decided that no change in the working hours was either necessary or desirable; and that decision has been amply justified by subsequent events. It is my own opinion that provided there is no deterioration in the freight position, we should be able to carry on the 60 hours working week at least until the end of June. Much may happen in the meantime however and my remarks must not be taken as any guarantee.

"The working agreement has once again functioned smoothly throughout the year, production has been adjusted to demand and

the availability of shipping, and changes in working hours have been effected with all the urgency which the various situations have demanded. I think it would not be out of place if I here referred briefly to the criticisms which have been made from time to time that the Committee have not acted quickly enough to prevent some of the unfortunate violent price movements which have occurred, particularly round about September. I have already said and I repeat, that your Committee refuse to juggle with the mills working hours merely to deal with a price situation which must in any case be purely temporary. Much though they deprecate these violent, and in my opinion unwarranted, price fluctuations, their policy must be directed by all the factors of the situation and not by one. The Committee have throughout all their deliberations in the rapidly changing situations which have occurred during the past year, been guided by the stock position, the availability of freight, the urgency of War demands and last but certainly not least, the labour position. I venture to think, Gentlemen, that the policy which has been the result of these all embracing considerations, has been in the long run (and I emphasise those words) the safest and best course to have followed for the benefit of all concerned with this Industry.

“The position, then, of the Association continues to be strong and united, we have still a blank disapproved list although the special Sub-Committee which we appointed have had many serious matters under their consideration during the past year. I also have taken the opportunity on two occasions when visiting Delhi last year, to discuss the question of outside mills. I am afraid I can report little successful progress but there are \*glimmerings of awakening interest and I am sure your Committee will continue to press any advantage which they may consider available.

## *(2) The Market Position—*

“When I addressed you this time last year we were, by virtue of an arrangement made with the Government of India, in the middle of our buying programme under which it was expected of us to purchase 37½ lakhs of bales of jute by the 15th April. Linked with that buying programme was a bye-law making certain fixed minimum prices, both for the raw material and for manufactured goods, binding on all members.

"It gives me very great pleasure and is a tribute to the loyalty of our members and the strength of our Association, to be able to record that all these arrangements were satisfactorily carried out. It will be remembered that in the first months of the year, the condition of the Industry could hardly be described as flourishing and it is therefore all the more gratifying to know that our purchases of jute fell short of the desired quantity by only  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs of bales. It was a hard task we had been given to perform but I claim that under the circumstances then existing we have every reason to be proud of our achievement.

"Considerable apprehension was apparent at the time of this agreement, regarding proposed restriction of the acreage under jute in 1941-42 and in referring to this question last year I said it was not beyond the bounds of reason to expect that the ryot would hold over a considerable quantity of his jute until the next season and that there was to my mind no reason why effect should not be given to the acreage restriction scheme. Well, Gentlemen, from what we can gather, some 35 lakhs of bales were carried over from last season by the ryot and middlemen (mostly by the ryot) and the Government restriction scheme has been a complete success. It seems almost a miracle but it is indisputable.

"Your Committee considered it only fair to members after having loyally supported the arrangements made with the Government of India that minimum prices should continue for a period, especially in view of the fact that we had not been advised as to whether it was the Local Government's intention to implement the balance of the buying programme themselves. They accordingly decided that these minima should remain in force until 30th June and they were then allowed to lapse, Government in the meantime having announced that they did not intend to make purchases on their own behalf.

"That decision of the Committee, then, ended a long period of price arrangements which first unofficial, and then binding, had existed for exactly one year.

"It is fortunate that from the date of the termination of the price agreement until shortly after the entry of Japan into the War, conditions in the Industry may be described as flourishing. The

“improvement in the shipping position, the reduction of stocks, Government demands and the resultant increases in working hours have all contributed towards the state in which the Industry finds itself to-day. It is true there was a sharp temporary setback immediately following the entry of Japan into the War but this was soon righted by the prompt action of the Committee in fixing minimum prices for manufactured goods. I shall refer to this later when commenting on Futures Markets.

“In the meantime ever since the end of June the ryot has been reaping a golden harvest and it is not our fault if he has not taken the fullest advantage of the existing conditions. There may perhaps at the moment be a little less advantage to him but bearing in mind the statistical position and unless we have to face many serious setbacks, it looks as if the demand may possibly be fully equal to the supply, allowing for stocks being maintained at last year's levels. Government have legislated for double the acreage of that sown in the 1941/42 season and again there is no reason to suppose that this will not be successfully carried out. Although I urged that more margin should be left to provide against possible contingencies seeing that we were legislating for a period lasting up to June 1943, I do not consider the position is such as to give rise to undue alarm either on the score of shortage, or excess of supplies. The whole question is of course governed by the international situation on the developments in which rest the extent of raw jute exports as also our trade in manufactured goods.

“It will be of interest here if I mention that combined stocks of hessian and sacking at the end of December 1940, after deducting sandbags held on Government account totalled 30 crores of yards. Production during the year totalled  $331\frac{1}{2}$  crores of yards or over 11 lakhs of tons, whilst stocks at the end of December again after deducting Sandbags held on Government account, totalled  $42\frac{3}{4}$  crores of yards. It must be remembered that these last figures were somewhat abnormal and were adjusted to some extent at the end of January this year when the total stocks were 38 crores of yards.

“Gentlemen, the entry of Japan into the War marked another chapter in this year's history and its repercussions on this Industry are so bound up with the Futures Markets and their operations,

“that I must deal with the two points together. For some years now it has been the custom of your Chairman to make some comments on the Futures Markets in the hope perhaps that some day Government would be persuaded of their uselessness and the danger which they constituted to our Industry, to the Province and even beyond these shores. Never has that uselessness and danger been more evident than in the period immediately following the declaration of War by Japan. Prices in the futures market collapsed immediately and despite the efforts of Government to arrange for the establishment of minimum prices in these markets, conditions were such that speculators were in a state of panic and minimum prices became a farce. Your Committee promptly took action and, by fixing minimum selling prices of manufactured goods and making them the subject of a bye-law, restored confidence in the market. Prices immediately recovered (the actual position of supply and demand never having warranted a slump) and it might have been expected that futures would once again have functioned. This was not the case, however, principally due to the departure from Calcutta of a large proportion of the speculative community. We have been carrying on extremely well in the absence of the futures markets, there have been no laments from genuine traders of being unable to hedge in these markets and the business of the Jute Industry has been on a far more stable footing as regards prices and dealings than it has been almost throughout the War. Our markets have been remarkably steady, moving according to supply and demand, the only true barometer of any markets. Can you visualise what would have happened during these past few weeks had the futures markets been in full swing?—violent fluctuations having as their origin baseless rumours and an almost certain considerable movement in a downward direction. Once again I urge Government to judge for themselves in the light of recent happenings whether these futures markets are really necessary. There can be no hardship on anyone in closing them now since all transactions may be considered at a standstill. I may remark here that I was a member of a deputation from the European Party which waited on the new Commerce and Labour Minister 3 weeks ago, when we placed the position regarding futures before him and urged their closure. I hope our representations will be given the careful consideration they undoubtedly deserve.

"The question of marks and standards has been dealt with fully in the report which is before you and I will not say anything here beyond stating that on this point as on the question of our experiment in regard to settlements of quality and moisture claims, there has been a welcome co-operation between the various interests which I trust will continue and improve.

"Gentlemen before I pass on to the next heading I will just briefly mention the conference on American ceiling prices which I attended on your behalf last October. The details of that conference are confidential and have been conveyed to you already in that manner. All I wish to say here is that I consider the conference to have been a very useful one and from information I received at the end of last year there is no doubt that the position of the Industry and its willingness to meet any reasonable demands from its largest consumers had been much better appreciated both in America and in Delhi as a result of our talks and exchange of views.

### **(3) *War Supplies and War Efforts.***

"The office of Adviser on Jute Supplies has continued to be held by me throughout the year under review. I expressed the opinion last year that we should probably continue to receive considerable orders for war supplies and the actual value of orders placed during the past year has reached the total of 10½ crores of rupees in addition to which orders valued at Rs. 2,07,91,842 were placed by me in January this year. The three principal items have been Sandbags, Hessian Cloth and Scrim Hessian Garnishing, Dyed and Undyed. In addition to these there have been considerable quantities of Union Jute/Cotton Canvas, Jute Canvas, Sacking Cloth and Bags and a large variety of other materials. I have received a very large measure of support from members in the placing of all these orders although there appears to be reluctance on the part of some to tender for any other items than those which are placed on all mills. I have experienced some difficulty in placing the large orders for dyed camouflage strips but with the willing co-operation of a few, all these orders have now been successfully placed.

"You have all borne cheerfully with the prices I have inflicted upon you for the large Government orders but you will agree with me when I say that these prices do not seem to have ruined the

"Industry. I should at this stage like to express to you my appreciation of the co-operation and help you have given me in the fulfilment of my duties as Adviser.

"In addition to these orders you have been asked to help the Supply Department in the matter of fabrication of water holding stores and this has been carried out by a few mills to the full extent of Government requirements. It has not therefore been necessary to call upon others who volunteered to assist in this work. Large quantities of these stores have been fabricated during the past few months and in this the Industry was able to meet an urgent necessity at short notice.

"You were also asked to undertake other ventures one of which in particular did not mature, though through no fault on our part. Government were indeed grateful for the enthusiastic co-operation which the Industry extended in that particular instance.

"Apart from this there has been the excellent contribution of the Munitions Supply Section. The total value of Lathes lent by members free of charge to Government was well over Rs. 7 lakhs, a not insignificant contribution in itself. But beyond this has been the utilisation of Mill Workshops in the manufacture of component parts for munitions. This work has been carried out under the control of Mr. W. H. W. Urquhart and I would like here to express to him our high appreciation of his work and also that of his supervisors. They have been responsible for a very fine contribution which the mills have made to the war effort. I am not permitted to give you details of this work but I can mention that the total orders placed in 1941 were for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million component parts, 9,00,000 of which have already been completed.

"With regard to our contribution to National Service, the latest returns show that 176 men have been released from the mills—a percentage of 24% of the pre-war staff which when considering the longer working hours, increased supervision and the fact that Jute Mills are a Key Industry, is by no means inconsiderable.

"Last but by no means least is the very considerable contribution which has been made by the mills during the past year in the shape of gifts to the various War Funds. Early in the year an appeal was made for a contribution of Rs. 5/- per loom from members and thi



"met with an immediate response. No less than Rs. 3,11,965 was collected as a result of this appeal and when I was asked before War Weapons Week, if the mills could be tapped again for a contribution I had just a little hesitation in approaching you. However, my hesitation was both short lived and completely unfounded as the result of the appeal was no less a contribution than Rs. 3,45,510. In addition to this, mill workers and staff employees have contributed handsomely during the year to the various funds and in particular I should like to mention the excellent effort as the result of the Chief Minister's appeal on the anniversary of the War. I think we may be satisfied that this Industry has not lagged behind in generosity during the past year and that our contribution in supplies both of manufactured goods and munitions has been of great importance to the war effort.

#### (4) *Labour.*

"I will now deal with the question of our relations with labour during the past year and I am happy to say that during the year 1941 the number of strikes which occurred was only 7, the lowest figure since we started four years ago to maintain records of trade disputes in member mills. All these strikes originated in domestic differences and were satisfactorily settled. It is unfortunate that since the new year commenced we have had trouble of a more serious nature, particularly in the Budge Budge area. Other strikes have also occurred but these were happily short lived and even the Budge Budge workers have now returned to work. From the outset of the War we have lost no opportunity of urging upon Government the stern necessity of dealing firmly with agitators if major disturbances are to be avoided and up to a point, our representations have been successful. There appeared for a long time however a marked reluctance to deal with agitators in the Budge Budge area and I maintain that this has been the main cause of the trouble there.

"Taken on the whole, however, we have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of our workers during the past year and particularly since that period when masses of dwellers in Calcutta and district were leaving the City. Our workers have for the vast majority loyally remained at their posts and where other industries have been hard hit by the exodus from Calcutta, the Jute Mills have lost but a small fraction of their workers. I think

"this may be partly due to the fact they they feel they will be looked after and protected to the best of our ability should the enemy visit these parts and I should like to take this opportunity of not only placing on record our appreciation of their loyalty but of renewing our assurances that they will be protected and that any just grievances will be fully considered and met.

"There are many problems before us in the present situation and although labour may be earning good wages it is our duty to see that they are in a position to purchase the necessities of life at reasonable prices. Your Committee have already had this matter under consideration, and I feel sure the new Committee will make it one of their first duties to investigate this problem. It is not going to be an easy question and it will require the utmost co-operation from all concerned including the Government of this Province, but nevertheless it is a matter which is urgent and which it is up to us to settle satisfactorily.

"Your Committee have had before them continually the question of costs of living and in June last when the Mills were working only 45 hours a week, they decided to make an allowance of Re. 1/- per month to every labourer. This has been continued throughout the year despite the very much increased earnings of the workers.

"I should like to take this opportunity of recording our appreciation at the manner in which our Labour Officers have tackled their arduous duties during the past year. To those of you who do not see their weekly and monthly reports, nor hear of their multitudinous activities, it may not be an easy matter to appreciate all they have done. I can assure you however that they have put in some excellent work and the satisfactory state of labour during the past year is in no small manner due to their work. We have extended many of our activities in labour welfare work during the past year, radio, cinema performances, loud speakers, sports—these are but a few that I shall mention. All these have helped considerably in strengthening our relations with our employees.

"One outstanding feature during the past year has been the decision to grant holidays with pay on major festival days throughout the year. This action has been delayed longer than we had

"anticipated but it is due to no fault of ours. I am pleased to record that the first payment of the holiday pay was made on the occasion of the Muharram early this year. I trust it will be appreciated by our workers since it represents a free gift to them of approximately Rs. 15/18 lakhs of rupees annually.

"It will not be out of place if I make a reference to A. R. P. matters at this point, seeing that the work we have undertaken in this direction has as its object the protection of human life as well as of property. I think I shall not be challenged if I say that this Industry has been in the forefront in A. R. P. works; its vital importance was early realised and work completed on a model scheme issued to you at the beginning of 1941. Since then a vast amount of labour has been involved in creating organisations and undertaking important protective measures. All duties in the direction of this have been in the hands of a keen, enthusiastic and hard working Sub-Committee and I wish here to express our deepest appreciation of the excellent manner in which they have tackled this vast problem.

#### (5) *Research.*

"Gentlemen, the Research Department of this Association has had many and varied propositions to investigate during the past year. The Annual Report will provide you with a vast amount of information regarding the activities of the Department and I do not propose to enter into details in my brief survey.

"The War has indeed had far reaching effects upon our Research Department and some of our programme of work has necessarily been retarded in order that we might undertake the more pressing problems in connection with war materials and the like.

"We are constantly confronted with the question of substitutes for jute but your Research Department has happily been called upon during the past year to investigate the uses of jute materials in substitution for other fibres and this has been attended with a considerable measure of success. We had already gone a long way towards the use of Jute and Union/Cotton Jute fabrics as substi-

"tutes for Flax and this has progressed further during the past year. We have also proved successfully that camouflage nets for which there is a large demand, can be equally well made from jute as from hemp. In ropes and twines of many varieties jute has taken the place of other fibres and all this has been made possible by careful research work. There are still many other directions in which these investigations are being carried out : the question of containers is as you are aware a problem which is exercising the minds of many at present and, as a result of surveys and tests already conducted, your department is now actively engaged in the production of alternatives made from jute materials suitably treated and processed.

"The rot-proofing of sandbags has been one of the principal features of the department's activities during the past year. We had almost despaired of further orders from the U. K. for sandbags in view of the disastrous reports as to their lack of resistance to weather conditions, which had been given such vast publicity in the press. Experimental shipments of rot-proofed sandbags had been made during 1940 but it was long before we had many reports from the U. K. and when these reports did arrive, they were hardly to be regarded as entirely favourable. Dr. Barker however, with the assistance of the London Advisory Committee never ceased to press our cause and as a result of their efforts we were asked early last year whether we could undertake rot-proofing on a large scale. It reflects great credit on the department that they never for one moment doubted the ability of mills to deal with this demand—it meant a great deal of hard work and organisation but it has been successfully accomplished and we are at the present moment faced with a demand for the rot-proofing of all the sandbags orders we have on our books. We are going to be hard pressed to deal with such a vast undertaking but I do urge upon you all to extend your utmost co-operation towards the fulfilment of these demands. We have preached the doctrine of rot proofing and it is up to us to deliver the goods.

"The question of moisture in jute is one which has also been the subject of close investigation during the past year and much has been done towards a satisfactory solution of this long outstanding problem.

"When I spoke to you last year concerning the future of our Research Department I said I thought we must be prepared to strike out boldly in this work. Well, Gentlemen, your Research Committee has taken the word for the deed and they have gone ahead with plans for the acquisition of land and building of new laboratories. It has now been recognised by them and indeed by the General Committee also that the present laboratories are far from adequate for the extension of our work which we deem so essential. Proposals therefore have now been laid before the General Committee who are examining the ways and means of implementing them. The proposals are for the acquisition of land in the Majerhat district (an option on which has already been secured) and for the building of laboratories. Provision is also made for buildings to house pilot and experimental plant and all the necessary plans have been drawn up and approved by the Research Committee. It is my hope that the new General Committee will very shortly afford sanction to these proposals which together with the financial obligation, can then be placed before members. It is no use our taking half measures in this all important work—we have proved its merit and we must be prepared to pay for the cost which to my mind will be manifoldly repaid.

"The past year as I have said has been one of hard solid work for both the Committee and the Department as not only have the former been obliged to give their attention to the work of research but they took on in addition the somewhat arduous task of a mill stores Committee. Out grateful thanks are due to both Committee and Staff and also to our friends in London whose work has been of such value to the Association.

"The Indian Central Jute Committee completed another year of useful research work on the agriculture, technology and economics of Jute. I would make brief mention of three features of their work which are of particular interest to us.

### *Technological Research—*

"The principal work of the Technological Research Laboratories of that Committee hitherto has been on the scientific assessment of the quality of the commercial samples of the fibre and the yarn, and on the determination of the relationship between the spinning quality of the fibre, and its measurable physical and chemical

"characters. In the year under report, further progress was made with both these items of work. In order to expedite the results of spinning trials conducted on commercial samples of fibre and yarn, the equipment and other facilities in the Laboratories were increased, and it is to be hoped that the industry and the trade will find the data on this subject compiled in the Laboratories of increasingly practical importance to them. Further advance was also recorded with the work on the establishment of correlations between the spinning quality of the fibre and its measurable characters, but some more work in this direction will be necessary before the results obtained from this investigation can be used as a basis for the scientific gradation of loose jute standards.

"The Central Jute Committee's scheme for the expansion of the activities of their Laboratories, to which a reference was made in my speech last year, matured in course of the year. Orders for the necessary machinery and equipment have been already placed with several firms here and abroad, and if these are received in good time, work in the scheme should begin from the middle of the current year.

#### *Marketing Investigations—*

"The Second Marketing Report on Jute and Jute products was published during the year under review. With the publication of this document, the marketing survey undertaken by the Central Jute Committee about four years ago was concluded. Their Marketing Section is now engaged on developmental activities of which particular mention need only be made of the grading stations in rural areas, and the contemplated establishment of two Co-operative Societies on the experimental basis. These experiments will be watched with considerable interest by the jute trade.

#### *Improvement of Jute Forecast—*

"The work on the Sampling Census of jute, which had been inaugurated by the Indian Central Jute Committee in 1937, was completed during the year. It is claimed that the technique developed as a result of these investigations will enable the Provincial Government to prepare and issue a reliable forecast of the area under jute in any year at a cost which appears to be trifling in comparison with the cost of the Jute Regulation Scheme now in force.

"Much progress has been already made with the yield-estimating survey, but the final results of the Scheme are not likely to be available till 1944.

*The Future—*

"It is indeed more difficult than ever before to attempt to make any forecast of the future. The War is at our doors now and much will depend upon the events of the next few months as to whether the present position regarding shipping facilities will be maintained. We were warned by the Prime Minister some weeks back that we must expect serious reverses and those serious reverses have come upon us. We know full well that the time will come when we shall move forward to victory but we cannot tell when that will be and what dangers we have to face meantime. All we can hope and strive for is the strength to meet those dangers and the will and means to overcome them. I have no doubt whatever as to the future in the long run but it would be folly for me to attempt to prophesy what will happen in the next few months.

"If things go well we shall share in the benefits but we must be prepared to face the possibility of dangers ahead. We are a strong united industry and if we continue in that co-operation and strength there is no reason why we should not successfully weather any difficult times which may lie ahead of us.

*Personal—*

"Before I conclude, Gentlemen, I must say a word of thanks to all those who have so loyally assisted me in my work as Chairman during the past year. The co-operation and support I have received from the Committee have been of great value to me and I am deeply grateful to them. I should like particularly to mention your Vice-Chairman who at all times has been a source of encouragement and assistance to me. Although he is not continuing with us, we are very fortunate in his election as Vice-President of the Chamber where I know he will not fail to serve our best interests.

*(Applause.)*

"To those who have served on all our Sub-Committees I would also tender my thanks—many of you can ill afford the time spent on these Committees and that makes your work all the more appreciated.

"I cannot finish without a reference to the Secretariat. Theirs indeed has been a hard task nobly performed. National Service made further calls upon them during the past year and although with the best will in the world we tried to spare them, I am afraid our calls on them have been greater than ever before. I should like to offer Mr. Sutherland especially, my own grateful thanks and those of all the members of this Association. We on the Committee and to a greater extent myself as Chairman have learned to appreciate the tremendous amount of work he puts in for us and its immense value to the Association. It gives me indeed very great pleasure to record our deep appreciation of their work so well performed."

*(Applause.)*

The Chairman then enquired if any members had any comments or questions on the report and the accounts. There was no response to this and he therefore moved :—

**"That the report of the Committee for 1941 be adopted and that the audited statement of accounts for that year be passed as correct."**

Seconded by Mr. R. L. Manners, the resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed members as follows :—

**"GENTLEMEN,**

The lot of any one who asks for more money to be paid for a certain purpose than has been customary in the past is always unenviable. However, I offer only explanations of why additional money is needed by the Association and no apologies; for none is necessary and you will want none knowing as you all do of the greatly increased and increasing amount of work which the Association are doing on your behalf.

"I would particularly mention that the budget estimates to which I now refer are the concern of A members only—B members rates of subscription are dealt with separately in the Rules and have a limit on them of Rs. 50 per annum fixed by the constitution.



"I would also remind you that expenditure on research, on the labour officer scheme, and on the Working Time Agreement are items for your separate consideration on references which subsequently will be made to all concerned.

"The rate of membership subscription last year was Rs. 1/12/- per loom: this year it is proposed to make it Rs. 3/8/-. This is due to several reasons but mainly because of provision for :—(1) A full year's charges at the enhanced rate of secretarial fees levied by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce which have been in vogue since the middle of last year ;

(2) An estimated increase in legal charges by Rs. 14,000: this is always a difficult item to forecast for it is not known what events may happen in the coming year rendering recourse to Solicitors necessary ;

(3) An expenditure of Rs. 19,800 on detailed work in connection with the organisation for the maintenance of mill stores in which also is incorporated the day to day work on the issue of licences under the Iron and Steel Control Order and that connected with the supply of chemicals for rotproofing ; and

(4) Our work in connection with A. R. P.

"The heavy burden on the secretariat calls for specialised assistance to them if work is to be continued at its present level and whilst nothing concrete has yet been mooted, your Committee realising this need have deemed it expedient to provide in the 1942 accounts against such a contingency. There may be savings effected under some heading of expenditure chargeable to the general funds and your Committee will continue to keep a careful watch over all sums expended to ensure that nothing is wasted.

"An expenditure of over Rs. 2 lakhs is not out of the way in the general direction of the work of an Association of this size and I therefore propose :—

**"That the rate of subscription for the year 1942 be fixed at Rs. 3/8/- per loom payable immediately."**

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. J. H. Burder) seconded this resolution which on being put to the meeting was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. A. M. Walker (Chairman) read out to the meeting the report of the scrutineers—Mr. T. E. Mathieson and Mr. T. R. Crook—on the examination of the voting cards; and proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. B. Nimmo, and unanimously supported by the meeting, the following resolution was passed :—

**“That the following gentlemen be, and they are hereby appointed the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Committee of the Association for the year 1942—**

*Chairman*

MR. W. A. M. WALKER, C.B.E., M.L.A.

*Vice-Chairman*

„ G. M. GARRIE

**Committee Members**

*Representatives of “A” Members*

MR. A. P. BENTHALL

„ H. D. CUMBERBATCH

„ K. P. GOENKA

„ I. G. KENNEDY, M.L.A.

„ J. R. WALKER, F.T.I., M.L.A.

*Representatives of “B” Members*

MR. K. D. JALAN

„ S. R. KANORIA

Mr. Ian A. Clark, M.L.A., in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman and members of Committee for their work in 1941 said :—

“MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN :—

It is with great pleasure that I rise to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and the retiring Committee for all the good work which they have done during the past year.

“I have had some little experience of the Chairman in another place, when he was leader of the European party in the Bengal Legislature. Owing to pressure of work he recently resigned from that post. I ask him to give us his assurance here and now that he has no intention of resigning the Chairmanship of this Association before his term of office is finished.

“Some years ago I was inspecting a small parcel of jute at the Kidderpore Docks in company with Mr. C. D. Stewart, the broker, whom some of those present here may remember. While the bales were being opened up the Port Commissioners' baboo in charge of that operation was kind enough to give us a long and detailed discourse on the life history of the fibre. Mr. Stewart listened with great attention, and when the baboo had finished he remarked, “Baboo, you surprise me. I always thought jute grew on a tree”. Well, gentlemen, you may think I am rather like that—that I know very little about jute, except that it does *not* grow on a tree. I know a good deal about the dividends which the jute companies are paying, however, and the commission which at least one firm of managing agents has been earning—those are subjects which interest me to a considerable extent—and I make bold to say that those dividends are largely the result of the policy which the Committee has pursued, going calmly on its way without paying too much heed to popular clamour and abuse as voiced in journals of various colours.

“Regulation of supply to demand is of course only one of the matters to which our Committee has had to give its close attention during its period of office. It has had many other problems to deal with, in particular that of labour, and it has dealt with them well.

"Along with a vote of thanks to the main Committee I should like to couple an equally hearty one to the members of the various sub-committees, whose activities range over such widely divergent subjects as Research, A. R. P. and De-hydrated Potatoes. They have willingly given up a great deal of their time to the study of a large number of matters affecting the welfare of our trade and our thanks are due to them in no uncertain measure."

*(Loud applause)*

THE CHAIRMAN tendered in reply his own thanks and those of the Committee and Sub-Committees for the kind remarks on their work which Mr. Clark had made and for the manner in which the meeting had supported them. He (Mr. W. A. M. Walker) could give no guarantee or assurance regarding his tenure of office as Chairman but he had been honoured by members' confidence in re-election to Chairmanship for still another year, and it would be his sincere endeavour to serve the interests of the industry to the utmost of his ability.

There being no further business, the meeting then dispersed.

J. J. B. SUTHERLAND,

*Deputy Secretary.*

W. A. M. WALKER,

*Chairman.*



**R E P O R T**  
**INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION**



# Indian Jute Mills Association

## SIXTY THIRD REPORT

The Committee have the honour to submit to members this the sixty third report of the Indian Jute Mills Association, being that for the year ended 31st December, 1941. The events of considerable moment in world's history of which the year 1941 has been witness render greater the need for a complete and adequate record of the important part being played by the industry and of the effects on the jute mills of all that is happening in the world. It is regretted that this cannot be done in that detail considered necessary. The shape and the purpose of the reports of the past two or three years have been preserved untouched, but this is so only in the broadest sense. Valuable detail in supporting evidence and material of inestimable assistance in the proper assessment of the industry's part and the Association's aid and policy in current events has had to be omitted. The Committee have regretfully been forced to this by shortage in staff and by their keen desire to avoid anything which might hamper rapid progress with additional tasks which have been voluntarily undertaken in the industry's and in the nation's cause in the present emergencies.

**Committee.**—At the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on the 21st February, 1941, the following gentlemen were elected as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee for the ensuing year:—

### *Representatives of 'A' Members*

- MR. W. A. M. WALKER, C.B.E., M.L.A., *Chairman*
- „ J. H. BURDER, *Vice-Chairman*
- „ H. D. CUMBERBATCH
- „ G. M. GARRIE
- „ M. P. THOMAS
- „ J. R. WALKER, F.T.I., M.L.A.
- „ K. P. GOENKA

### *Representatives of 'B' Members*

- MR. K. D. JALAN
- „ S. R. KANORIA



Mr. M. P. Thomas of Messrs. Bird & Co. tendered his resignation from the Committee in December and his seat was taken by Mr. A. P. Benthall of the same firm.

There were no other changes in the personnel of the Committee.

**Standing Sub-Committees.**—The merit of the specialised Sub-Committee system in the Association's work has been fully recognised and commented on in previous years.

The Committee pay tribute to the invaluable help rendered them in the discharge of their functions by the personnel of the undernoted Sub-Committees :—

*(a) Executive Committee in respect of the Loose Jute Sellers Sub-Committee.*

Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E.,

M.L.A., *Chairman*, Messrs. Barry & Co.

„ J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A. ... „ McLeod & Co., Ltd.

„ K. P. Goenka ... „ Ramdutt Ramkissendass.

*(b) Special Sub-Committee for the Registration of Loose Jute Sellers.*

Mr. R. L. Manners, *Chairman*, Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.

„ D. B. Scott ... „ Bird & Co.

„ H. A. Luke ... „ W. Hawarth & Co.

„ J. L. Ruthven ... „ Landale & Morgan.

„ Gopichand Chopra\* ... „ Chhogmal Rawatmal

„ Gajraj Sarawgi ... „ Tolaram Nathmull.

„ W. B. Watson ... „ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.

„ J. W. R. Steven\*\* ... „ R. Sim & Co., Ltd.

„ J. N. Smart\*\* ... „ Landle & Clark Ltd.

\*Mr Gopichand Chopra resigned in August and his place was taken by Mr. R. L. Nopany of Messrs. Daulatram Rawatmull.

\*\*Representatives of the European Mofussil Jute Balers Association recently appointed to assist in the proper study of a number of questions connected with the jute marks and standards.

*(c) Special Labour Sub-Committee.*

Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E.,			
M.L.A., <i>Chairman</i> ,	...	Messrs. Barry & Co.	
„ J. H. Burder	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.	
„ J. Scott	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	
„ G. M. Garrie	...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	
„ M. P. Thomas***	...	„ Bird & Co.	

*(d) Factory Legislation Sub-Committee.*

Mr. K. P. Goenka, <i>Chairman</i> ,		Messrs. Ramdutt Rankissendass.	
„ F. Blair	...	„ Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	
„ J. T. Dakers	..	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	
„ D. B. Scott	...	„ Bird & Co.	
„ J. K. Elder	...	„ George Henderson & Co., Ld.	

*(e) Industrial Legislation Sub-Committee.*

Mr. J. H. Burder, <i>Chairman</i>	...	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.	
„ T. B. Nimmo	...	„ Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	
„ W. M. Whyte	...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	
„ F. Crichton	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	
„ T. C. Saboo	...	„ Birla Bros. Ltd.	

*(f) Complaints Sub-Committee.*

Mr. K. D. Jalan, <i>Chairman</i> ,		Messrs. Soorajmull Nagarmull.	
„ J. Mann	...	„ Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	
„ J. Gallie	...	„ Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.	
„ P. M. Duncan	...	„ George Henderson & Co., Ltd.	
„ R. R. Hogarth	...	„ James Finlay & Co., Ltd.	

*(g) Tariff Classification Sub-Committee.*

Mr. G. M. Garrie, <i>Chairman</i> ,		Messrs. Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	
„ D. G. Buchan	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	
„ A. W. Reid	...	„ Macneill & Co.	
„ M. P. Nevatia	...	„ Birla Bros., Ltd.	

\*\*\* Mr. M. P. Thomas of Messrs. Bird & Co. resigned in December and his place was taken by Mr. A. P. Benthall of the same firm.

*(h) Technical Scholarships Sub-Committee.*

Mr. G. M. Garrie, <i>Chairman</i> ,	...	Messrs. Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
„ W. B. Watson	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.
„ I. G. Kennedy M.L.A.	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.

*(i) Contracts Sub-Committee.*

Mr. H. D. Cumberbatch,			
<i>Chairman</i> ,	...	Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd	
„ D. P. Khaitan M.L.A.,	...	„ Birla Bros., Ltd.	
„ W. F. Scott-Kerr	...	„ George Henderson &	
		Co., Ltd.	
„ I. G. Kennedy M.L.A.	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.	
„ D. I. Duff	...	„ Barry & Co.	
„ F. Law	...	„ Bird & Co.,	

*(j) Special Sub-Committee for the revision of the Contracts*

Mr. D. P. Khaitan M.L.A.,			
<i>Chairman</i> ,	...	Messrs. Birla Bros., Ltd.	
„ I. G. Kennedy M.L.A.	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.	
„ F. Law	...	„ Bird & Co.	
„ D. G. Buchan	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	
„ W. F. Scott-Kerr	...	„ George Henderson &	
		Co., Ltd.	

*(k) Mill Stores Sub-Committee.*

Mr. J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A.,			
<i>Chairman</i>	...	Messrs. McLeod & Co., Ltd.	
„ D. I. Duff	...	„ Barry & Co.	
„ F. H. Kidd	...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	
„ F. Law	...	„ Bird & Co.	
„ J. A. Murray	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.	
„ G. M. Wilson	...	„ Gillanders Arbuthnot &	
		Co.	
„ A. Wright	...	„ Anderson Wright & Co.	

*(l) Air Raid Precautions Sub-Committee.*

Mr. M. P. Thomas\*\*\*\*

<i>Chairman,</i>	Messrs. Bird & Co.
„ D. L. Brodie ...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
„ C. Baxter ...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.
„ D. D. McLaren	„ Soorajmull Nagarmull.
„ H. L. Reddyhough	„ Barry & Co.
J. Scott	„ Anderson Wright & Co.

*(m) Special Sub-Committee to deal with points arising out of the price arrangement with Government.*

Mr. J. H. Burder, <i>Chairman,</i> ...	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co
„ M. P. Thomas ...	„ Bird & Co.
„ G. M. Garrie ...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
„ K. D. Jalan ...	„ Soorajmull Nagarmull.

*(m) The Technical and Labour (Managers) Sub-Committee.*

Mr. J. A. Murray, <i>Chairman</i> ...	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.
„ G. F. Dott ...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.
„ J. L. Nicoll ...	„ Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co.
„ W. Robertson ...	„ Bird & Co.
„ T. C. Saboo ...	„ Birla Bros. Ltd.

*(n) Pressing of Jute Goods Sub-Committee.*

Mr. K. D. Jalan, <i>Chairman,</i> ...	Messrs. Soorajmull Nagarmull.
„ D. I. Duff ...	„ Barry & Co.
„ F. Law ...	„ Bird & Co.

*(o) Industries Trade : Development of Markets Sub-Committee.*

Mr. G. M. Garrie, <i>Chairman,</i> ...	Messrs. Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
M. P. Birla ...	Birla Bros. Ltd.
D. I. Duff ...	Barry & Co.
K. D. Jalan ...	Soorajmull Nagarmull.
I. G. Kennedy, M.L.A. ...	Jardine Skinner & Co.
W. F. Scott-Kerr ...	George Henderson & Co., Ltd.
J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A.	McLeod & Co., Ltd.

\*\*\*\*Mr. M. P. Thomas of Messrs. Bird & Co. resigned in December and his place was taken by Mr. A. P. Benthall of the same firm.

*(p) Special Sub-Committee for the Classification of Mill Staff  
for National Service.*

Mr. J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A.,		
<i>Chairman,</i>	...	Messrs. McLeod & Co., Ltd.
„ M. P. Thomas ...	...	„ Bird & Co.
„ J. Scott ...	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.

*(q) Special Sub-Committee for Futures Market.*

Mr. G. M. Garric, <i>Chairman,</i> ...	Messrs. Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
„ K. D. Jalan ...	„ Soorajmull Nagarmull.
„ J. R. Walker, F.T.I. M.L.A. ...	„ McLeod & Co. Ltd.

*(r) De-Hydrated Potatoes : Advisory Sub-Committee.*

Mr. J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A.		
<i>Chairman,</i>	...	Messrs. McLeod & Co., Ltd.
„ K. D. Jalan ...	...	„ Soorajmull Nagarmull.
„ W. H. W. Urquhart ...	...	„ Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.

**The Research Department Committee.**—The nature of the work of the Research Department Committee is specialised and with a research programme which is almost 100% war work, their duties have been onerous and their responsibilities great. The personnel has remained unchanged these last two years and the benefits of experience and knowledge so gained are reflected in the degree of progress which has been made in the current year.

The Committee of the Association would now place on record an expression of their high appreciation of the untiring and capable manner in which that work has been handled by the Research Committee consisting of:—

Mr. J. R. Walker, F.T.I., M.L.A.,		
<i>Chairman,</i>	...	Messrs. McLeod & Co., Ltd.
„ D. I. Duff ...	...	„ Barry & Co.
„ F. H. Kidd ...	...	„ Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.
„ F. Law ...	...	„ Bird & Co.
„ J. A. Murray ...	...	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.
„ G. M. Wilson ...	...	„ Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co.
„ A. Wright ...	...	„ Anderson Wright & Co.

**Representation on different bodies.**—The following gentlemen have represented the Association during 1941 on the bodies named :—

<b>The Bengal Boiler Commission</b>	...	{ Mr. R. A. Cole. Mr. J. A. Kinnear.
<b>The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine</b>	...	Mr. F. Law.
<b>The Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association</b>	...	Mr. J. Scott.
<b>The 24-Parganas District Board</b>	...	Mr. W. B. Watson.
<b>The Howrah Municipal Board</b>	...	Mr. J. M. Donadlson.
<b>The Barrackpore Excise Licensing Board</b>	...	{ Mr. J. A. Kinnear. Mr. P. Keddie.
<b>Howrah Excise Licensing Board</b>	...	Mr. D. R. Whyte.
<b>The Presidency General Hospital: Board of Radium Trustees</b>	...	Mr. A. P. Benthall.
<b>Howrah General Hospital Committee Management</b>	...	{ Mr. D. R. Whyte. Mr. G. Martin.
<b>Calcutta Hospital Nurses Institution</b>	...	Mr. J. H. Burder.
<b>Indian Central Jute Committee</b>	...	{ Mr. W. A. Walker, C.B.E., M.L.A. Mr. I. G. Kennedy, M.L.A.
<b>The Jute Forecasts Joint Committee, Bengal Chamber of Commerce</b>	...	The Chairman, <i>ex officio</i> .
<b>The Railway Rates Advisory Committee</b>	...	The Chairman, <i>ex officio</i> .
<b>The Industrial Legislation Sub-Committee Bengal Chamber of Commerce</b>	...	The Chairman, <i>ex officio</i> .
<b>Eastern India Committee, Federation of India</b>		The Chairman, <i>ex officio</i> .
<b>The National Service Advisory Committee</b>	...	The Chairman, <i>ex officio</i> .
<b>Export Advisory Council</b>	...	Mr. J. H. Burder.
<b>Safety First Association of India</b>	...	Mr. J. H. Burder.

The Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen in the capacities indicated.

**The Board of Control: East India Jute Association, Ltd.**—Messrs. G. M. Garrie and K. D. Jalan represented the Association on the Board of Control of the East India Jute Association, Ltd., throughout the year.

**Election of jute fabric brokers: Mills and Shippers Sub-Committee.**—Messrs. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E., M.L.A., H. D. Cumberbatch and M. P. Thomas kindly consented to represent the Association on the Mills and Shippers Sub-Committee to whom proposals for the election of members of the Jute Fabric Brokers Association are submitted for approval. Mr. M. P. Thomas resigned in December and his place was taken by Mr. A. P. Benhall. The Sub-Committee consists of three members of the Indian Jute Mills Association and three members of the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association whose representatives were:—

Mr. C. M. Keddle.

„ D. G. Buchan.

„ H. L. Robertson.

**The Jute Mill Deposit Trustees.**—The Association's Trustees in office consist of Mr. E. L. Watts of Messrs. Orr Dignam & Co., Sir Henry Richardson of Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd., and Sir George Morton of Messrs. Bird & Co.

**The Association's Rules: (a) *The Advisory Board.***—Under rule 5 of Chapter XV of the rules of the Association the Advisory Board is to consist of the Chairman of the Association for the time being or any person nominated by him and two other persons to be nominated each year by the Committee, one of whom at least shall be a representative of a member of the Association but neither of whom shall be a member of the Committee. At the beginning of the year, the Committee invited Sir Harry Burn and Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood to continue to serve as members of the Advisory Board and their invitations were accepted. The Board therefore consisted of these two gentlemen and the Chairman of the Association, and remained unchanged throughout the year.

**(b) *The Advisory Board's Panel.***—Clause 4 of the bye-law passed at a Committee meeting held on the 6th January 1939

provides that the choice of selection for a special Advisory Board is to be from a panel of twelve persons nominated and appointed each year by the Committee and to be known as the "Advisory Board's Panel". The panel is to be composed of four Indians and eight Europeans (including representatives of members but excluding members of the Committee and the Advisory Board) who are particularly qualified for the panel because of their knowledge of:—

- (a) the jute trade and industry, or
- (b) businesses, trades, and industries connected directly or indirectly with jute, or
- (c) law, or
- (d) general financial experience;

and who will be persons whose reputation is such as would make them eligible to be members of the Advisory Board.

There have been vacancies and changes caused for a number of reasons and the following gentlemen at present constitute the Panel:—

Sir William Lamond, Kt.	Sir Badridas Goenka.
J. A. Clough, Esq.	S. M. Bose, Esq.
J. A. Ogg, Esq.	B. N. Mookerjee, Esq.
Sir George Morton.	Sir Henry Richardson.
G. D. Birla, Esq.	P. F. S. Warren, Esq.

(c) *Revision*.—It will be recalled that at a special meeting of members held on the 6th August 1940 certain amendments of the Association's Rules were adopted to bring the references to the Secretarial Staff of the Association into line with the revised organisation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce Secretariat. No amendment was made at that time to Chapter VI of the Rules, but it was subsequently observed that a reference to the Secretarial Staff of the Association occurred in Rule 7 of Sub-Section (1) of this Chapter. A special meeting of members was held on the 21st February 1941, and passed formal amendments to that rule in the following terms:—

1. That in Rule 7 Sub-Section 1 of Chapter VI of the Rules of the Association the words "Deputy Secretary or an" shall be inserted between the word "the" and the words "Assistant Secretary".



2. That three members of the Association and the Chairman and the Secretary be authorised to give notice of the amendments of the rules made by the foregoing resolution to the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bengal, within 15 days from the date of this meeting.

**The Present Market Position.**—In the report for 1940 the Committee gave a full exposition of the circumstances which necessitated their entering into an arrangement with the Government of Bengal and the Government of India whereby the best endeavours of the Association would be used to have purchased by all member mills a certain quantity of jute between certain dates (10th December, 1940, and 15th April, 1941) at certain minimum stipulated prices. The arrangement was such that were member mills not to purchase to the extent indicated, Government would then be at liberty to enter into the market and make good the leeway, this to be done through the Association who would act as agents for Government and would arrange for storage and all other trading facilities necessary for such a transaction. Apart from again stating that the basis of this arrangement was made the subject of a bye-law passed by the Committee on the 21st December, 1940, as earnest of the Association's desire to witness as complete co-operation with Government as circumstances then dictated as prudent and also to state that the total extent of the purchases to be made by the mills was 1,87,50,000 maunds, it is not proposed in this report to say anything more with regard to the actual circumstances, rights, obligations and understandings of the respective parties to the arrangement.

The trading circumstances of the mills between the beginning of December and the middle of April, 1941, were not such as would give any encouragement to the rapid completion of the buying programme; and with conditions in the manufacturing side of the industry being at their lowest ebb, the extent of the money involved in these purchases also was a factor which militated adversely against the complete implementation of the arrangement. However, the totals of members' purchases were during the period in question 1,68,69,038 maunds involving therefore a shortfall of 18,80,962 maunds; and on the 26th of April, 1941, the Government of Bengal decided that they would not

exercise their right to call on the Association to purchase this deficit on Government account, expressing at the same time the hope that it would be made good at a very early date. The Committee consider that in the light of all circumstances the part played by the mills in their implementation of the agreement was highly commendable; and the Hon'ble the Commerce Member of the Central Government has publicly expressed such a point of view.

The arrangement was one which also imposed minima upon the prices which members could charge for their manufactured goods; and shortly before the middle of April, when the bye-law governing the arrangement was due to expire, the Committee considered their policy with regard to its continuance. Having regard to the fact that Government had advised them of an inability to reach a decision on whether or not purchases on Government account would be necessary before the end of April, bearing in mind also the interests of those members who had fully implemented their part in the buying programme for raw jute, and considering the great uncertainties in the trade engendered by the varying reports on the Local Government's jute acreage restriction programme, the Committee at a meeting held on the 4th of April unanimously passed a bye-law which extended the scope of the restrictive conditions on the purchase of jute and the sale of gunnies up to and including the 30th of June. It was made clear further that the terms of this bye-law applied with equal force to purchases of the new season's crop which were then being entered into.

At the beginning of June the Committee again considered whether this price arrangement with Government should be continued or not, but market circumstances in the sale of gunnies had improved and indications were that the Local Government's jute crop restriction policy had been a success. It was decided and to this Government agreed, that it would be best were the arrangement allowed to lapse. An assurance was, however, given to the Government of Bengal, and the Committee were supported in giving it by the replies which had been received to a demi-official reference to members on the subject, that if market conditions at any later date so necessitated, appropriate action would be taken by the Association. Members were informed of this decision in Circular No. 161-D of the 28th June, 1941.

Japan entered the war on the 8th December, 1941, on the side of the Axis Powers and such was the effect of this on the gunny prices that the Committee at a special meeting held on the 16th of December unanimously passed the undernoted bye-law—

*It is to be noted as a bye-law of the Association that member mills must not sell their manufactured goods below the following minimum prices :—*

<i>Price</i>	<i>Deliveries</i>	<i>Fabric</i>
Rs. 15/8/- per 100 yds. ready and December 1941.	} 40" 8 oz. basis for all 9 porter fabrics.	
15/- per 100 yds. for all forward deliveries January onwards.		
19/8/- per 100 yds. ready and December, 1941.	} 40" 10½ oz. basis for all 11 porter fabrics.	
19/- per 100 yds. for all forward deliveries January onwards.		

This applies for A, B makes : C makes will be at two annas and D makes at four annas less than those given above.

For standard sacking goods, a minimum price equivalent to Rs. 350/- per ton for all deliveries.

In respect of fabrics other than standard, member mills are given discretion in their sale at prices on a parity with the minimum prices given above.

2. This bye-law will subsist until cancelled by the Committee in meeting.

At the time when made, this by-law had the effect desired. Conditions, however, since then and until the date of writing this report have so improved that action further than noted above was rendered entirely unnecessary.

**War : its effects on the industry.**—It is proposed to continue in this year's report the procedure adopted last year of bringing together in appropriate sub-divisions of the generic title given to this paragraph, the more important of the subjects to which the Committee have devoted attention in 1941 and which are connected with the effects of the present war on the industry's position and trade or with the ways in which the resources of this industry are being utilised in the nation's cause in the present crisis.

(II) *Supplies of war material.*—In 1940, the calls upon the industry for the supply of war materials were insignificant in extent and number: the position has been otherwise in 1941, although it was towards the end of that year before any orders of magnitude were received from the Department of Supply either on behalf of His Majesty's Government or on behalf of the Government of India or through the Eastern Group Council in respect of the several allied nations for which they act as a purchasing medium.

In the year 1941, orders were placed of a total value of over Rs. 10½ crores for various items of jute manufactures. Approximately 46½ crores of sandbags were ordered and in this there is one special feature which represents the cumulation of considerable and patient research work by the Association, namely, 15 crores of sandbags rotproofed by the method which had been devised by the Association's Research Department for bulk production in this country. Over 15½ crores yards of hessian cloth were ordered, nearly 11½ crores yards of scrim cloth for camouflage work, and a considerable quantity of other materials including over 45 lakhs yards of canvas.

Going back to the beginning of 1939 when it will be recalled the first large Government order for sandbags was placed through the Association's auspices, the position from then up to the end of 1941 is that war orders to the extent of just slightly less than Rs. 24 crores have been placed with jute mills.

The entire work involved in the fixation where necessary of prices, in the placing of the orders with mills, in the determination of how and when to the Government's best advantage their requirements could be met and fulfilled, and all other major matters connected with the implementation of supplies of this magnitude, is under the control of the Adviser on Jute Supplies. This position continues to be filled in a purely honorary capacity by the Chairman of the Association, Mr. W. A. M. Walker, who has almost completed two years of such work. This direct link with the industry, responsible for the large outturn before-mentioned, has been a proven success; and the large measure of freedom so obtained by the industry from vexations, difficulties, and delays in undertaking these supplies to Government could only have been achieved by the

establishment of such a link and by the untiring efforts of the honorary incumbents in forging it to one of its present strength and position in relation to an industry such as the jute mills in possession of a high degree of organisation and co-ordination in action and policy.

To Mr. W. A. M. Walker the industry owes for this voluntary work a great debt; and to those members of his organisation—both on the purchasing and the inspection side—tribute also must be paid for the capable manner in which they have fulfilled a difficult task. Mr. Palit has been succeeded in his work as Assistant Director of Purchase (Jute) by Mr. E. Dixon who previously had held a similar position, and the inspection work is now under the direct charge of Licut. A. G. Brewer who works under Major Hardaker, Assistant Inspector General of Stores, Bengal Area.

The office of the Adviser on Jute Supplies at, 7, Esplanade East has since February, 1942, been removed to Apartment 13, Ezra Mansions, Old Court House Street, Calcutta, and the telephone number is Regent 831. The office of the inspection side of the work is situated at Ordinance Inspection Department, Hastings, and the telephone number of the A. I. G. S. is South 2700 and that of the Officer in charge of Jute Inspection (Lt. Brewer) South 2700 Ext. 4.

(II) *Mill stores*.—Last year's report contains a record of the endeavours made by the Association to ensure that careful watch would be kept on the effect of present world conditions on the supply of mill stores and action taken which would ensure at all times their continuance. An appreciation of the policy of the Association in this question was given as also a statement of the important part which it was envisaged such a centralised authority could play in work so vital to the undiminished and most economic functioning of the industry.

The developments of the war have given increasing evidence of the farsightedness of such a policy and already in several directions—wooden goods, baling hoops, machinery parts and spares to mention the more important—the Association have been able through their organisation to do much that is of benefit. It

is not proposed to particularise or make any detailed mention in this report of the great deal of work which the Sub-Committee charged with this task have been called upon to do; for in deference to the majority opinion held to date, their duties have not been extended in the manner visualised when the idea was first placed before the Association and much that has been done has not been in pursuance of any settled line of policy but has been forced by circumstances beyond members' control which have been, at least for the moment and due to the Association's intervention, put right. There has been increasing resort, however, to that centralised, co-operative, and concerted action which through the Association can best be witnessed in the interests of the industry and an increasing body of support to the view that were this further developed within the Association, it would render any need for further control work through purely Government agencies unnecessary. Difficulties in shipping, increasing restrictions in imports, greater official control over essential items of stores supplies, stricter regulations for priority certificates, are but a few of the complexities and handicaps in the normal conduct of business with inevitable delays in their operation, perhaps anomalies in their results, and most marked of all, an inability by the methods at present followed of arriving at a full appreciation of the effects of these various control measures and regulations on a particular industry's position.

Recent indications are that there may be witnessed a complete development of the Association's policy consequent upon discussions which have taken place recently with the Central Government and the action which they have been required to take as regards the cotton textile industry. "Control" is the term used in such matters and one which has unfortunate associations when applied to industry through Government agency. It is as regards the Association's policy one which in the foregoing connotation is wrong; for in their actions to ensure the most efficient working of the mills in times of war, the Association's aim, broadly speaking, is through centralised action to bring about a position whereby:—

- (a) available shipping space essential to India will not be occupied by stores either not essential to the industry or in quantities excessive to the requirements of the industry;

(b) supplying agencies will not be able to take advantage of the present abnormal conditions to the detriment of the mills themselves and the postponement in fulfilment perhaps of their own orders for similar stores;

(c) His Majesty's Government will have a full appreciation of the total of essential stores and thus provide for the necessary man and machinery power to ensure their supply and shipping space to ensure their despatch to where and by whom needed;

(d) no mills will have to cease working through want of essential stores; and

(e) there will be preserved unhampered and working on a systematic regularised basis, the existing purchasing and supplying agencies so that stores may not be unnecessarily forced up in price either through faulty distribution or through the entrance of unknown speculative interests in the usual trading fabric.

Members will be informed in due course of the outcome of the Committee's consideration of the issues as they now appear consequent upon the discussions with the Central Government.

(III) *Classification of staff for national service.*—Record was made in the last Annual Report of the Committee of the endeavours to translate into something concrete the general wish of the assistants in the jute mills to participate more actively in the war and of the consequent and speedy formation of a Battery in the main composed of jute mill assistants, to undergo intensive training in India before proceeding overseas.

The release of men was on a voluntary basis but the Committee agreed with certain views placed before them that some orderly system of release should be observed, considered not only from the requirements of the individual mills but from those of the industry as a whole and of the part which it is called upon to play in the war. Accordingly a Special Sub-Committee was formed to examine the whole question, as a result of which certain minimum standards were laid down regarding the number of

men to be retained in mills; and these were accepted by members and supported by the National Service Advisory Committee. It is necessary again to consider the position because of the demands which exist for more men and this is still under discussion.

As far as the Association's records go, and confined to assistants working in certain of the mills, the present position in the jute mill industry in the release of man power is:—

(1) Normal complement of peace-time personnel in the mills.	...	...	...	783
(2) Present complement of personnel in the mills...				557
(3) The difference between (1) and (2) is accounted for by :—				
(a) Loss in personnel through deaths, retirements, resignations etc. ...			...	50
(b) Released for national service			...	176

That is to say that in the mills, work is now being carried on with 71% of the staff employed in peace time conditions. Out of the total staff available for service in the mills—that is the peace time complement less those who have died, resigned, or left for reasons other than national service—24% have left to join one or other of the various forms of national service.

(IV) *East India and other Funds for War Services.*—The Committee record with great satisfaction the excellent response received from all the member mills and also from the Gagalbhāi Jute Mills to their appeals for donations to the East India Fund for British War Services. The total amount donated as a result of their first appeal in March, 1941, was Rs. 3,11,965 all of which with the exception of Rs. 20,375 was utilised in the purchase of five fighter planes named after the Indian Jute Mills Association. The odd sum referred to was utilised at the subscribers' request in various forms of relief work.



The Committee would further like to place on record their marked appreciation of the response from the labour and the staff of mills as well as the staff of the Association when in response to the Hon'ble Mr. Fazul Huq's appeal on the 3rd of September, appropriately to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of war by increasing the donations to the war fund, a total of Rs. 22,491-8-9 was received through the sources before mentioned.

Because of the specialised nature of the campaign conducted during the week ended 6th December to ensure the greatest financial support to the successful prosecution of the war, Calcutta established an organisation with the full consent and approval of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, to ensure that there would either be given or loaned to the various war funds an amount of money worthy of Calcutta's place as one of the leading cities in the world.

The Committee felt sure that members would share their desire to see the mills play an active part in making that "Week" a complete success. With this feeling an approach was made to members with two suggestions of the particular ways in which they could help in this deserving object. These were to be considered apart from the other ways in which individually or as Managing Agents or as Companies they were thinking of supporting financially the efforts then being made and to which full publicity had been accorded.

The Committee's first suggestion was that mills should make a voluntary donation to one or other of the war funds which have been established in Bengal. They would not tie members down to any fixed sum but commended that sums should be donated on as generous a scale as members' means permitted; and to give a lead, the Committee on behalf of their own mills undertook to give varying amounts which in total were Rs. 2,12,595 or approximately Rs. 6 per loom from the varying interests they represented.

The total so received as donations amounted to Rs. 2,83,390 during the "Week" and subsequently in response to this appeal,

a further Rs. 62,120 was received. At the request of the donors, these sums were distributed to the following funds:—

East India War Fund	...	Rs.	3,02,020
Red Cross & St. John Ambulance	„		15,125
Air Raid Victims Relief Fund, London	... ..	„	11,865
Air Raid Victims Relief Fund, Glasgow	... ..	„	5,000
Amenities for Indian Troops	...	„	5,000
King George's Fund for Sailors (Indian Comforts Fund)	...	„	5,000
Indian Red Cross Fund	...	„	1,500
			<hr/> 3,45,510

The Committee are most grateful for this splendid gesture on the part of the mills whose generosity in this way has been the subject of official expressions of thanks by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and Sir Henry Burn, Chairman of the East India Fund.

The second suggestion was that sums held by the Trustees on account of members' security deposits and which are not in Defence Loans, might be sold and the money invested in war loans and re-deposited with the Trustees, any surplus remaining after such transactions to be given to the members concerned. The total amount of securities offered by mills for conversion in this connection was equivalent to Rs. 19,54,400 although the securities that were effectively converted into 3½% Defence Loans 1949/52 during the week only totalled Rs. 6,86,000. For although the majority of the members responded to the appeal, unfortunately all conversions could not be effected by the end of the Defence Week by the Imperial Bank and therefore a full appreciation of the generosity of members could not be reached by the Association. The Committee take this opportunity, however, of recording their thanks to all participating mills for this gesture.

(V) *Muntions Supply Section*.—Originally the Association's offer to the Central Government was that the whole of the mill's

workshops could be turned over and work double shifts in aiding in India's munitions supply "drive" but for the reasons given in the 1940 report this had to be modified. Lathes and other machinery capable of being used in shell manufacture were given by the mills to centralised shell productive units and the machinery still left in the mills was utilised in "feeder" work either to these units or to others in the manufacture of components in armament production generally and not only shells.

In the 1940 report *vide* page 45 a statement of the position as it then obtained in the supply of machinery was given: considerable progress in the realisation of the idea which prompted the Association's offer was accomplished in 1941. An assessment of the position taken towards the end of that year revealed that 176 machines of various descriptions and sizes had been given to Government for use in one or other of the shell factories in India and that the total value of these was Rs. 7,12,279. A statement with the detailed description of the machines, by whom given, where sent, their value etc., was compiled and given to Government and copies supplied to the Central Office of the Association's Munitions Supply Section and the Group Supervisors.

These machines are given free of any charges whatsoever, the only condition governing their supply being that after the war is over they should be returned to their owners.

Further developments on this side of the Association's efforts are unlikely to be witnessed in the future; for the capacity of the mills workshops to yield machines has been fully explored and is now exhausted especially now that in the "feeder" work before mentioned, very much greater demands are being made on the mills.

There was quickly formed at the end of 1940 the organisation which it was thought would be capable of handling all matters connected with the mills "feeder" work for shell factories and manufacture of other essential items in munitions and armament production; for it will be recalled that the Department of Supply asked that rather than that they should deal with numerous individual mills, all contractual, technical, payment, delivery

and every other question connected with the orders should be handled through the one source which also would be responsible for the direction and control in these matters of the individual mills participating in the work.

That organisation had not been tried out in practice: the work it was called upon to handle was entirely new and completely dissimilar in form to anything which the individuals comprising it had previously been doing: it further is work all undertaken in an honorary capacity in addition to the numerous other duties which the individuals comprising it have normally to perform; and contacts had to be maintained and work done with a Government organisation which had not yet reached any settled policy and was by itself entirely new and unused to the work. Considerable difficulties, troubles and delays were initially experienced especially because of the last-mentioned factor but the organisation, as originally conceived, proved by experience to be capable of handling all that is required of it. Actual production has been expeditious, has exceeded from the start in skill and finish the expectations of its sponsors; and the Association's Munitions Supply Section is now running smoothly as an efficient, reliable and important contributory factor in the high position which India's munitions and armaments production has now assumed. That this is so is amply borne out by the increasing resort by the Supply Department to the Association's organisation and the monthly outturn of components by the mills has steadily increased. It is not permitted to give details of the extent of the work thus being done but it can be said that during 1941, orders were placed for 1,556,400 components of various designs, shapes and purposes of which the mills have already completed 893,600 pieces. In this work 55 mills were actively engaged.

Now that experience has been gained in actual work over some months, progress can be rapidly made in calculating the price which should be charged to Government which it is to be recalled will be on the basis of actual material costs plus labour, as it is the Committee's policy that there should be no profit whatsoever earned by mills in this national effort.

The Committee would like to convey to all members engaged on this work and through them to their managers, engineers, assistants and all others on the staff of member mills dealing with

the technical and administrative side of this effort, their warmest thanks and appreciation of the fullest co-operation, advice and assistance without which it would not have been possible to achieve this great aid in munitions production. In this work Mr. W. H. W. Urquhart, as the technical officer in control of the whole programme, has willingly and voluntarily borne the heaviest burden and it is to his work that the largest measure of credit must be attached in the good results obtained. The Committee would place publicly on record their high appreciation of the valuable services thus rendered and would also incorporate in this expression of their thanks to Mr. Urquhart the names of the Group Supervisors. It has been found necessary to increase their number by one because of the circumstances surrounding the nature of the work now being conducted in Group A (Hooghly area) and the men who with Mr. Urquhart form the technical, supervisory and controlling section on this side of the Association's activities, and the areas in which they are carrying out their duties in an honorary capacity, are given below:—

Group A : Hooghly area	...	<div> <div>Mr. W. Morrison</div> <div>Mr. D. Brodie</div> </div>	<div> <div>Joint Group</div> <div>Supervisors</div> </div>
„ B : Calcutta area	...	Mr. J. Murray	
„ C : Budge Budge area	...	Mr. G. Gorrie	
„ D : Titaghur area	...	Mr. P. Keddie	
„ E : Jagatdal area	...	Mr. H. Brown	

(VI) *Supply of barges*.—After undertaking a preliminary enquiry early in the year to ascertain how many of the barges used in the port of Calcutta could be spared, if required by the Admiralty, without serious inconvenience to their owners, the Naval officer-in-charge announced in May that 60 barges were required from Calcutta immediately. A discussion was arranged between the Naval authorities and representatives of the boat owners to settle the terms on which barges should be supplied to the Admiralty, and it was agreed that H. M. Government would hire the barges at a rate of four shillings per registered ton per mensem; would defray the cost of any work necessary to put the barges in condition after they had been taken over; would be responsible for the maintenance of the barges while they were used by the Admiralty;

and would restore them to their owners in the same condition in which they were taken over, fair wear and tear excepted, when they were no longer required. In the event of a barge being lost, or permanently acquired by the Admiralty, a formula for the payment of compensation was devised, in which it was agreed that the replacement value should be calculated on the original cost, plus  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ , less depreciation at  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  per annum.

With the object of ensuring the best possible use of the available tonnage, both for naval and commercial purposes, an advisory and consultative Committee was formed on which the Association were represented by Mr. G. M. Garrie. It was decided that for the purpose of the requisition the barge owners in the port should be divided into four groups—the Indian Jute Mills Association; the Calcutta River Transport Association and the four Inland Steamer Companies; the Indian Shipping Co. Ltd.; and the bazar boat owners; and that each group should be called upon to contribute barges towards the total requirements in the proportion which their registered tonnage bore to the total registered tonnage in the port. The contribution of individual boating companies was left to be arranged by the group of which they were members, and the Naval Authorities agreed that should any company responsible for hiring a barge or barges not have any suitable for the Admiralty, the deficiency should be made good by another company, which would then be entitled to an equivalent tonnage from the defaulting company, at a rate of hire to be determined by the Advisory Committee.

Shortly before the end of the year, the Naval officer-in-charge reported that a total of 126 barges would be required, if possible by the 31st December, 1941, and of this total the Association's share was 14.

In addition to what has been said above about barges, mills have also willingly placed at Government's disposal assistance in various miscellaneous directions such as in the provision of pontoons, hydraulic power pumps etc.

(VII) *Fabrication of waterproof stores.*—A considerable demand for the supply to the Army of canvas tanks, covers, buckets and all other items of waterproof stores had forced the Department of Supply to seek additional capacity for the fabrication, from raw material supplied, of such stores. Sewing

machines existing in the mills for this type of work are few but Government supplimented the small number present by 59 other machines which were placed in six Mills. The orders from Government are placed on the Association who in turn distribute these to the mills concerned and already a goodly amount of finished material has been forwarded to Government, the price charged being fixed by arrangement as one representative of actual costs in the mills plus a nominal margin of profit but exclusive of all supervisory and/or office staff charges.

This brief report is but indicative of one of the many ways in which the Association and their members are assisting Government in the present emergency.

(VIII) *The Iron & Steel (Control of Distribution) Order 1941*.—This Order which came into force on the 1st August, 1941, incorporates a scheme of rationing of India's resources of iron and steel so that they might best be utilised in the country's war effort. Permission for any one to acquire iron and steel required, with the exception of small lots for petty requirements, the sanction of Government authorities or needed a licence issued by an appropriate Government department to whom all available quantities had been made over for use. Therefore if mills wished a supply of Indian made iron and/or steel, application for authority in each individual instance would have to be made through the appropriate controlling body.

To avoid trouble and inconvenience to the mills, to assist in the administration of this Order, and to develop the Association's policy of centralising mill stores and equipment ensuring thereby a steady supply, approaches were made to the Central Government and their sanction obtained to a procedure—subsequently followed by all other organised sections of industry—whereby the Association were granted by Government a sub-quota under which main licences were issued to mills who in their turn could issue sub-licences to manufacturers in order to get supplies; for the basis of the control is in the raw material and importers are unable to supply and yet get their stocks replenished unless they do so against the licence obtained from the buyer who in his turn has obtained permission from the appropriate authority.

It was not until 1942 that the operative portions of the Order were brought into effect in the manner before described—

needs between August and December had been met by issues through the Commerce Department—and there were certain items in which there existed a considerable scarcity and for which no sub-quota could be given by Government to the Association to meet member's needs which had been estimated on the basis of their normal consumption. In respect of these items, the course of procedure to be followed was indicated to members who further had been informed of how to obtain their main licences from the Association in respect of the controlled items which had also been particularly mentioned.

The detail in this, the day to day work which devolves on the Association consequent upon their endeavours in pursuance of their policy (at present limited in the manner commented on elsewhere in this report) in relation to mill stores, and the machinery necessary to operate their scheme for the supply to mills of chemicals needed for rotproofing, were the main considerations influencing the Committee in the appointment of Mr. T. W. Scroggie who is now particularly charged with the execution of the foregoing tasks.

The main control in this work on the Government side lies with the Controller of Imports in a special department created for the purpose in New Delhi working through the Iron & Steel Controller who has his office at 102-A, Clive Street, Calcutta.

*(IX) (a) the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance 1940.*—During the year a great deal of study was devoted to the implications of this Ordinance, which in its interpretation and in its effects in actual practice, had given rise to a considerable number of doubts and difficulties. The results of this were made known to the Central Government in representations sent them by the Association in which also were contained ideas on how the Ordinance could be operated much more satisfactorily in the conditions which surround the normal conduct of this industry's trade. Increasing evidence of these difficulties, especially with regard to manufactured goods, was placed before the Association and an interpretation which had been placed by Government on the scope of the Ordinance, namely, that goods on tidal and navigable waters were not



situated in British India, defeated as far as the jute mill industry was concerned, the very purpose which the Ordinance was designed to serve. The correctness of the view held was strongly contested and Government urged in the interests of the industry speedily to amend the Ordinance to grant the desired protection so that this and all other points of difficulty in its operation would be removed, leaving the rights and liabilities of the various affected parties in no doubt. No satisfactory answer to these representations was received and as members were finding difficulty in knowing just exactly what to do, the Association issued on the 8th December 1941, Circular No. 319-D which surveyed the whole position and contained various recommendations on the action to be taken to comply with what was regarded by the Association, after consultation with their Solicitors, to be the true state of affairs.

By an amendment of the Ordinance—it is contained in Circular No. 1 of the 2nd January 1942 issued by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce of which copies were sent to all members of this Association—it was revealed that the Association's representations had not been in vain; for by that amendment all of the Association's points were fully met. The effect of this on the mills position is still under consideration in conjunction with affected trade interests and also with the Association's Solicitors and the results will be made known as soon as circumstances permit. Meantime, action on the lines recommended in Circular No. 319-D of 1941 will best ensure the protection of members' interests and be in compliance with the law.

(b) *Immoveable property*.—Details are still awaited of Government's proposals for war risk insurance of such property, an idea which the Committee have supported and which in their view should have taken precedence over the insurance of goods against war damage.

(X) *Office hours for tendering documents*.—In view of the lighting restrictions introduced by the Government of Bengal the Bengal Chamber of Commerce recommended that with effect from the 1st October 1941 offices should advance their ordinary working day by half an hour in order to give their

employees at least an hour of daylight in which to get home from their work. In reply to a reference from the Gunny Trades Association the Committee expressed the view that the customary and recognised hours for the tendering of documents should also be advanced by half an hour, so that they would be up to 4-30 P.M. on week days and 12-30 P.M. on Saturdays (Bengal Time).

Members were informed of this in Circular No. 262-D dated 14th October, and the Committee's decision was communicated to the Gunny Trades Association and the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association.

**A. R. P.**—One of the most prominent features of the Association's work during the year under review has been in the organisation of passive defence against the possibility of air raids; and it is in this, perhaps more than in anything else, that there have been revealed the value and benefits which attach to concerted co-operative action under centralised control which assumes—as did the Association—a responsibility to devise and to advise on a co-ordinated plan shaped in the full knowledge of the industry's needs, designed in full consultation with representative sections of opinion in the industry, and finally referred to and approved of in principle by all members of the industry.

Careful thought and study in the light of all experience then available and gained in practice was given to the formulation of a model organisation in A. R. P. for jute mills, the details of which were issued to members for their consideration and adoption in an attachment to Circular No. 27-D of the 3rd February 1941. That scheme and the general principles which guided its formulation, have been proved by subsequent experience to be in no need of revision, and it is one which if followed and adapted to the individual needs and circumstances of a mill, can carry with it the assurance that it is on the right lines and will afford adequate and ample protection. The year 1941 has been devoted to considerations of the ways in which that scheme can in detail be filled in and a general procedure followed suitable to the needs of most mills which will result in A. R. P. in jute mills being taken to the highest point of efficiency. The lack of centralised direction and control has been keenly felt in most other industries in this work and individual units in industry—especially

those placed by Government in one or other of the special categories for A. R. P. purposes—have been subject to instructions from a number of controlling bodies which have been varying in form and confusing in detail and in purpose. Therefore when jute mills in Bengal were placed into Grade B for A. R. P. purposes—no official orders to this effect have been issued, the statement is made on the authority of Mr. Trussler, Special A. R. P. Officer (Factories), Government of India and Government of Bengal—the Association were in a position to demonstrate to Government the considerable degree of study and attention which had been already expended on this work in a central and co-ordinated fashion. They asked, therefore, that nothing should be issued by Government in connection with A. R. P. measures in the mills, except through and after discussion with the Association.

Were an attempt here made to summarise all that has been done in A. R. P. measures under the Association's auspices, it would be but to anticipate the issue of a publication which has been prepared in the Association's office and is now in course of print with the same object in mind. There is little or nothing in A. R. P. which has been left untouched by the Association from the smallest to the largest item; and since Japan's entry into the war, there has been witnessed a larger and increasing activity which is but a reflection of what generally obtains but which in the jute mills has proceeded on the basis of a scheme accepted and approved in principle by all affected units in the industry. Special attention has been devoted to the protection of labour and to their place, and to their education up to an appreciation of their place, in the general scheme of protective measures.

There is, it is recognised, much still to be done in the full development of the Association's role in A. R. P. matters acting as they now do as a "go-between" Government on the one hand and individual mills on the other; and especially is this so in directions which more properly can be classified as civil defence work as a necessary concomitant in the proper and efficient working of the mills A. R. P. services. Again, it is appreciated that there exist deficiencies in equipment or in the scale of protection carried out by individual mills. These are factors which continue to engage the Association's unremitting attention; and to assist in the detail involved in this work, Mr. D. N. Gupta

one of the Association's labour officers—who has taken the course of industrial training at the Central Government's A. R. P. staff school—has been transferred to work on nothing other than A. R. P. in the mills.

Regular meetings of the A. R. P. Sub-Committee have been held throughout the year to consider the various points of importance which have been the subject of detailed notes issued to them in advance of their meetings; and decisions of considerable importance and value in the conduct of this work have been made in the light of the experience and knowledge possessed by the mill managers forming the main body of the Sub-Committee and representative of the various mill districts—with the exception of the Naihati/Gourepore area for which Mr. H. L. Reddy, of the Gourepore Electric Supply Co. Ltd. acts. To that Sub-Committee which has acted for the year 1941 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. P. Thomas and now, since that gentleman resigned from the Committee in December, operates with Mr. A. P. Benthall in the Chair, there has been given a task of great proportions which has been adequately discharged in a thorough and capable fashion; and the Committee would express their warmest thanks to the personnel of that Sub-Committee for all the time and study which has been devoted to a subject of primary importance to the industry in this time of war. They also would express their thanks to all member mills who have so willingly and wholeheartedly co-operated with them in supporting the recommendations which have from time to time been issued.

**Labour situation: general.**—For a proper appreciation of the jute mill labour situation in 1941, it is important to remember the depressed circumstances obtaining in the industry's trade for the major part of the year in question. Again, it was not as if 1941 saw the start of that depression; for 4 months prior to January 1941, the labour had their earning capacity reduced by unavoidable circumstances to that obtainable for 45 hours work in three weeks out of the month, the other one being entirely closed in all these months. January saw a continuance of this state of affairs: February was a short month and therefore during all weeks, mills were open for 45 hours. March, however, again witnessed three weeks work of 45

hours each and one week with none at all. Fortunately conditions slightly improved and this was the last occasion on which it was found necessary to close the mills for a week in the month. During April until the end of August, mills ran 45 hours in every week of the month. In the beginning of September, more definite signs of improvement emerged and from then until the end of the year, hours were steadily increased being 50 from September until near the end of October, 54 from then until the 6th November when they were increased to 60 hours per week at which figure they stayed until the end of the year; and they still are in operation at the time of writing this report.

For a year then, dating from September 1940, the worker's earning capacity was at a low ebb and for six months in that year it was reduced still further by the fact that in each of them there was no work for him to do.

Surrounded by workers in other industries whose capacity to earn was unaffected except perhaps by the inability of the particular industry to expand fast enough to meet pressure of demands or through temporary limitations imposed by inability to obtain raw material; faced with rising prices of essential commodities—the working class cost of living index figure steadily rose in the period of the jute industry depression before mentioned from 107 to 117—for which he had nothing to spare to meet; subjected to growing anxieties regarding the trend of the war nearer to India's shores not entirely neglected by agitators as a means of fomenting dissension and trouble; and not unaffected by the political situation in India generally and in Bengal particularly where a new Ministry was formed, the jute mill workers weathered these trying conditions without any marked disturbance in their ranks: in fact the year 1941 saw the lowest number of trade disputes in the industry for quite a long time.

This in itself is sufficiently demonstrative of the staunchness and loyalty of the jute mill workers as a whole and a reflection of merit on the policy pursued by the employers. Throughout this period, the labour force was maintained undiminished in numbers so that they would when necessity demanded be in a

position immediately to meet all war orders: this again lessened the possibilities of trouble which might well have ensued had numerous men been thrown out of employment. For the time when the mills were unable to work, payments totalling more than half of the wage bill were given to the workers without any conditions and, in addition to the 10% increase in wages granted at the outbreak of the war, a further allowance of Re. 1 per month was given to all workers from June onwards. There are numerous other directions which need not be particularised of the means adopted by the Association to ameliorate the effects of the unfortunate circumstances to which labour was thus unavoidably subject; and great care and time and attention were devoted to activities which would result in labour being reliably and authoritatively informed on the progress of the war and of the developments in passive defence work.

Perhaps the greatest tribute, however, both to the workers loyalty and to the Association's activities in their widest sense, can be drawn from the marked contrast between jute mill labour and that of other industries and of a great number of the civilian population in their reactions to the news of Japan's entry into the war and the temporary gains secured by the treacherous manner in which this was done. It has not been possible to obtain accurate figures of the exodus from Calcutta and various estimates have been made of the total exodus of labour. No purpose would be served in trying to analyse them and arrive at something which would be authoritatively accepted. Suffice it to say that the movement was considerable yet, in the main, the jute mill labour was untouched and remained firm. One or two mills were undoubtedly affected but the movements of labour from them were not witnessed at the start of the exodus but later and were caused in the main, so the Association's enquiries show, by economic factors—labour transferring themselves to other mills where chances to earn more were greater—or because conditions existed in the particular mills which were not representative of the standard elsewhere maintained. These defections were few, resulted in some cases in highly contrasted situations with labour more plentiful in some mills than had been the case for years, and are such as do not affect the validity of the main claim that jute mill labour speaking as a whole remained steady and enabled mills to

continue working their full complement of looms and machinery 60 hours per week and in some cases, where permitted by the Working Time Agreement, more. It provides a picture which the Committee make bold to claim was unmatched at that period of crisis in any other industry in the Calcutta industrial area.

Undoubtedly there are factors which have operated in the mills favour in the maintenance of this highly satisfactory state of affairs and perhaps the most important is that when the crisis did break, mills were fully and actively engaged on a working week programme which gives the worker 62 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours wages for 60 hours work; and these wages also carry with them the benefits of the 10% increase in November 1939 and the Re. 1 allowance in June 1941. These favourable factors, however, are in the main entirely of the mills' own creation or part of the development of the Association's progressive labour policy which is sufficiently adaptable in form to meet the changing circumstances of present day affairs. Uniformity in action and in approach to labour and its problems are the basic features of the policy developed and maintained by the Association and possible only by that intensive study of all that can possibly affect labour in its work and in its attitude conducted by the Association's staff on information gathered, assorted, and analysed daily from all jute mill centres. It would be a study of worth, and would provide most interesting data, to investigate in much more detail the play and counterplay of all that has gone to make 1941 in the circumstances before mentioned one of outstanding merit in the labour field. There is no time afforded the staff of the Association to attempt such study and the full data could not be conveniently incorporated in this report. The Committee would be, however, failing in their duty were they not to record this grateful appreciation of all the help and the assistance which has been afforded them by Government, and their officials concerned, in the furtherance of the Association's aims and ideas in matters affecting labour of which Government and those concerned have been kept in the closest touch.

Records of strikes in the jute mills have been maintained on the same basis since 1938 and the Committee record with pleasure and considerable satisfaction in the light of the circumstances as

before disclosed, the fact that in 1941 only 7 mills went on strike. The comparative figures since 1938 are here given :—

—	Number of Strikes.	Man hours lost.
1938	36	1,50,12,213
1939	25	81,74,471
1940	11	40,65,754
1941	7	30,78,788

**Labour Officer Scheme.**—Started as an experimental measure in 1939, the Association have developed the scheme making readjustments mainly to ensure that the divisions of the mills into the various groups are the most convenient and best for administrative purposes. This reallocation of mills in each group was undertaken in the course of the year and made for easier administration through the employment of additional officers where necessary. Two new appointments were recorded during the year and the position in this regard can be readily observed from the following :—

Name of the officer	Field of activities	Situation on night offices
Mr. S. K. Mazumdar Appointed on 17th January 1940.	Group I : mills in the district between Birla and Delta with the corresponding mills on the West Bank of the Hooghly.	(1) Budge Budge. (2) Rajgunge. (3) Delta. (4) Chitraganj.
Khan Sahib Altafuddin Khan Appointed on 16th March 1930.	Group II : mills in the district between Union South and Shree Ganesh.	(1) Howrah. (2) Kidderpore. (3) Narkaldanga.
Mr. B. Roy Appointed on 9th June 1941.	Group III : mills in the district between Barnagore and Empire.	(1) Barnagore. (2) Titaghur.
Rai Bahadur G. C. Das Appointed on 7th June 1930	Group IV : mills in the district between Bally and Bansberia.	(1) Serampore. (2) Rishra. (3) Bhadreswar. (4) Bally.
Mr. R. M. Sen Gupta Appointed on 29th December 1941.	Group V : mills in the district between Hukumchand and Shree Gourisankar.	(1) Kankinarrah. (2) Gouriffa. (3) Shamnaggur.



Mr. Roy was appointed to take the place of Mr. Sinha who was transferred to the Association's office to give assistance on the details of administrative work. Unfortunately, his health broke down in the last quarter of the year when he has been on leave and it is unlikely that he will be able to resume his duties.

Mr. R. M. Sen Gupta was appointed to take the place of Mr. D. N. Gupta who has been transferred to A. R. P. work.

As originally planned, the Association's Labour Officers had two distinct duties to perform. One was in connection with inspection of looms and working hours as necessitated by the Working Time Agreement. This part of their work has always been subordinate to the real purpose of their appointment. The chief object has been to harmonise relationship not only between employer and employee but to co-ordinate all actions in this regard and induce a greater measure of collaboration between the Government, functioning through the Labour Commissioner and his officers, as well as Managing Agents, Trade Unions and all other cognate interests. The immense popularity and wide publicity enjoyed by the night offices of these Labour Officers testifies to the increasing confidence secured and maintained in every instance. Great care has been taken in the selection of the men and although no appointment has yet been made of the Senior Labour Officer envisaged for such a post, its realisation will secure the greatest satisfaction to all concerned.

The past year has been fraught with much difficulty and the work entailed, no light burden. But the difficulty has been minimised considerably by the successful spade work done in the past two years. Both mill managers and labour have constantly turned to these officers when in trouble and in their conciliatory efforts they have not only shown much discretion and alacrity but have been constantly resorted to by the Labour Commissioner whose references to them of labour grievances have increased in number and have doubtlessly been concluded to his and the labours' entire satisfaction in most instances. Although the counter influence of subversive Unions and political intriguers has been routed by Government action as evidenced by the Defence of India Rules, it is maintained by the

Committee that labour have already begun to appreciate the futility of listening to false promises when opposed by stability, sympathetic actions, and promises always substantiated by the Association.

Their activities as labour officers are the subject of regular reports to the Special Labour Sub-Committee and these activities have been further extended in the year under review on lines indicated from the Association's office where the ways and means by which the influence and position of the labour officers can be strengthened and exercised in the best interests of all concerned are the subject of continuous and careful study. The most important of their many activities are touched on below :—

1. Enquiries and regular reports on the prices of food current in the bazars functioning in the vicinity of jute mills have been supplied by the labour officers. They also worked in collaboration with the Controller of Prices, and any flagrant abuses were immediately reported with a view to correction.

In spite of the Government Price Conference held last year, very little progress has actually been made in effective price control of essential foodstuffs. The entry of Japan in the war at the end of the year necessitated greater stringency in the supply of such basic food supplies as rice, wheat, flour, dal etc., further intensified by the panic which prevailed for a short period, driving away many of the shop-keepers. In this connection and as has been stated more fully elsewhere in this report, a survey is at present being made of all the bazars in the industrial areas in the matter of supplies of food and prices, in order to take a systematic stock of the position affecting jute mill workers as it now rests and to prepare for any contingency that may arise in the near future.

2. War propaganda forms one of the main items of work engaging the attention of all labour officers. This work has recently been intensified but has been in actual and effective operation for some time; and it is

not too much to say that the results of this, combined with all other action taken by the Association in support of it, have amply been demonstrated in the prevention of an exodus by jute mill workers from Calcutta after Japan's entry into the war on the side of the Axis Powers. In continuation of their previous work, immediate action was taken by the labour officers in direct war talks explaining the real position, contradicting false bazar rumours which were either misinformed news or deliberate lies created further to disturb labour conditions. Every opportunity is seized to "talk down" the apprehensive state into which most labour have been thrown. A wise move has been made to combat this general state of disturbance by the constructive measures taken by managing agents and in the grant of a material assurance endorsed by A. R. P. shelters, of goodwill towards workers and their families. A complete A. R. P. training was given to each Labour Officer last year and their knowledge has now been extended to the workers direct. These efforts have proved successful and are receiving strong support from the broadcasting stations, Indian News Letter, Talking Points, posters and War in Pictures.

3. A very active move has been in progress this year and will continue in force until all cases of bribery are considerably reduced in numbers if not completely eradicated from jute mills. An anti-bribery campaign, supported by mill managers and strongly commended by the Government has been afoot for some time, and much has been done to eradicate this evil practice from some mills. Unfortunately the continuance of the Sirdari system in certain mills is a strong deterrent to these efforts and investigations, which are still proceeding, would seem to indicate that only in its complete removal will it be possible to conduct this attack on bribery to a successful issue.

4. Some of the labour officers have devoted a great deal of time collaborating with the Director, A. I. R. to present suitable programmes in the vernacular to labour twice weekly. Short dialogues on interesting and relevant sections of war news are presented and explanations of important Acts affecting labour are given in dialogue form. Throughout, the opinions of the mill managers are sought and every endeavour has been made to incorporate their suggestions where feasible.
5. Their efforts in connection with social welfare and sport activities have not been ignored and although much yet remains to be done in this sphere, a great deal depends on the voluntary efforts of managers and managing agents without whose hearty co-operation very slow progress can be expected.
6. In July, the Bombay Mill Owners' Association published a booklet entitled 'Recommendations on Labour Matters.' This was made the subject of very careful study by this office, aided by the first hand experience of the labour officers, particularly in its application to jute mills in Bengal. The whole matter is under review at present and it is hoped in the near future to embody some of its salient suggestions in regard to standardisation of important topics like wages, appointments etc., not already governed by Legislation, in a circular to be issued to member mills. This study is being linked with a review of cases of grievances reported by the labour officers during their term of office, with the purpose of studying the labour problem in all its aspects and removing by anticipation the causes which disrupt the life of workers and disturb the harmonious relationships that should exist between the employer and employed. As stated before much will depend on the co-operation of the mills and particularly of the managers; and it is interesting to note in this connection that, from the Employers Federation of India, Eastern India Committee a letter was received suggesting that more might with advantage

be done by constituents of the Federation on this side of India in the way of keeping those actually engaged in the handling of labour in closer touch with the labour questions engaging attention from time to time. The Federation pointed out that unless steps were taken in this direction, officials dealing with labour had no means of keeping themselves informed on the progress of discussions leading up to legislative measures or co-operative action by employers in matters affecting labour. The Federation also emphasised the desirability where labour trouble has been experienced or is apprehended of close contact being maintained between affected individuals concerned in the same area.

Unfortunately the petrol restriction has affected the work of Labour Officers as well, particularly in connection with the holding of night offices. This, however, has not deterred them in their desire to continue their good work and at slight inconvenience and re-adjustment, their work and duties have been carried out as hitherto with only minor alterations.

**Holidays with pay.**—The Committee were concerned to establish some system under which labour would be assured throughout the year of certain days on which no work for the generality of the force would be performed without this affecting their wage earning capacity; and the scheme evolved was that of declaring a certain number of days to be official Association holidays on which all mills would be closed and would not work but in respect of which the labour would receive payment on the same scale as if in point of fact they had worked. This in no way interferes with the holidays which at present are normally given by the mills according to local circumstances or because of the types of labour employed; for careful investigations had shown that there were considerable divergencies in the days and the number of such holidays. Mills were not willing to depart from their own practices which had grown up during years of working and this therefore effectively precluded advancement towards that ideal which the Committee had in mind of uniformity in the number and days on which holidays in jute mills should be observed. These variations were great in Bengal itself but were further intensified by the differences in holidays in other provinces of India where there are jute mills. Accordingly the

only way to maintain progress on the lines of the Committee's ideal was to confine attention to the province of Bengal. As a result of a reference to member mills so placed, all were in favour of six of the more important festival days which had been named by the Committee being observed as non-working days but for which labour would receive their normal wages.

The possibility of their scheme being affected by legislation under consideration by the Central Government made it necessary in the opinion of the Committee that some arrangement should be arrived at with Government in order to avoid all possibility of the member mills being faced with a double liability in the payment of wages for holidays under their own scheme and again under a Government legislative scheme which might enforce holidays different from those agreed upon. Government shared with the Committee an anxiety to remove all impediments which might stand in the way of an early introduction of the proposals of employers to grant holidays with pay but yet found themselves in a difficulty in giving such an assurance as was required because of the complete uncertainties of the ultimate shape of the legislation to govern this matter. Government said, however, that whatever form legislation did take it would certainly not prescribe that the paid holidays under legislation should be *in addition* to the number already being granted by employers, provided of course the minimum was in line with the legislation finally enacted. The ideas of Government are that the minimum should be six but employers generally were opposed to any suggestion of compulsion by means of legislation, they taking the view that holidays with pay should be a question for individual action by employers in consultation with labour.

After a careful review of all circumstances and of the correspondence referred to above, the Committee finally decided to put their own scheme into effect and members in Bengal who had unanimously supported the idea, were informed of this *vide* Circular No. 297-D of the 15th November, 1941, and told that it would be effective as from the 1st January, 1941. They were agreed, after consulting the Industrial Legislation Sub-Committee, that the following conditions would govern the grant of the concession :—

- (a) *To whom payable.*—All manual workers whether employed on a daily or monthly rate of pay or work-

ing on piece rates: clerical staff in the mill will not be entitled to this benefit.

The payments will be made to all those workers, permanent hands or budlis irrespective of service, who were working in the mill the working day previous to the holiday in respect of which payment is to be made. In the case of permanent workers who might be absent that day, no payment will be made *except* to those who, with the consent of the management, were off work for reasons of sickness.

(b) *When to be paid.*—The amount will be added to the usual wages of the worker and paid at the usual time of payment to these workers.

In the case of fixed daily or monthly rates of pay, calculations of the benefit present no difficulty. In the case of piece workers the average daily rate of the week's earnings previous to that in which the holiday occurs will be taken to determine the rate of the benefit.

(c) *In respect of what days.*—Payments should be made on the following days, these being now declared to be official Association holidays on which mills in Bengal will not work any portion of their establishment (except that necessary for the receipt and/or despatch of jute and jute manufactures):—

FESTIVAL.	DATE.	NO. OF DAYS.
Mohurru	January 28th	1
*Doljatra	March 2nd	1
Id-ul-Fitr	October 12th or 13th	1
Durga Puja	October 16th and 17th	2
Id-uz-Zuha	December 19th	1

\*Mills will be at liberty to grant a half-day on that festival and a half-day on either Chaitra Sankranti (13th April) or Rathajatra (sometime in July: the date is not certain yet). Alternatively they can substitute a half-day on both Chaitra Sankranti and Rathajatra or can give a full holiday on either of these days in substitution for Doljatra.

N.B.—The precise days on which these festivals fall due for observance are likely to vary: mills will be advised, however, of the precise English calendar dates when to be observed nearer the time of their observance.

- (d) *What is the position if festivals fall on a non-working day.*—It is the idea that labour will receive six full days' pay in respect of the holidays mentioned whether these fall due for observance on working days or not. Should say Mohurram fall due on a Sunday and the labour work the whole of the following week, then they will receive their pay for what they have earned *plus* a day's pay in respect of the Mohurram. If, however, the Monday following the Sunday is taken by the labour as the day for the observance of the Mohurram and the mill is therefore not working on that day, the workers will receive what they have earned for the remainder of the working week *plus* one day's pay in respect of the Mohurram.

Arrangements were made to have this decision made widely known to the labour force and the concession was first paid on the occasion of the Mohurram on the 28th January 1942. Certain practical points arising out of the experience of that day's payment have been referred to the Association for consideration and these are being studied to see if and in what way they affect the above-mentioned conditions.

As regards the legislative side of affairs, the question was again up for discussion at the January, 1942, Conference convened by the Central Government of all provincial Governments and interested Indian States but there are no definite indications of what decisions were there reached though it has been indicated that opinion seems to favour six consecutive days holiday to which the Committee are opposed on a number of grounds which need not here be specified.

The record of the position is incomplete without mentioning that the two member mills of the Association in Madras already grant holidays with pay: all member mills in other provinces have been addressed and enquiry made whether they too will grant concessions to their labour on somewhat similar lines. Replies are awaited.

**Cost of Living Index.**—It was recorded in the Association's report for the year 1940 that the Board of Economic



Enquiry, Bengal, instituted an investigation into the family budgets of industrial workers in the province by making a start in the Jagatdal area among jute mill workers. The Board informed the Association on 20th June 1941 that the collection of first set of budgets in the Jagatdal zone had been completed and a preliminary report on economic conditions and cost of living was being prepared for submission to Government. The Board was of the opinion that for a correct appreciation of the economic condition of labourers, it was necessary to take into consideration the accommodation, leave bonus, education, medical treatment and the amenities which are provided by different employers to their respective labourers, and accordingly requested the help of the Association in getting the mill authorities to furnish them with the foregoing information on forms supplied by the Board. The Association addressed mills in the Jagatdal area for their full co-operation in the attainment of the aim of this enquiry.

It is now understood similar investigations in the Budge Budge area are completed; and the results of a statistical analysis of both are awaited.

The general and continuous rise of price levels due to war conditions was observed throughout the present year and the Committee took particular care to watch the price movements of principal commodities in the working class budget and also the cost of living index figures for the working class in Calcutta issued by Chief Controller of prices, Bengal. In June, when the index figure stood at 113/114 as against the base of 100 in September 1939, the Committee, after consideration of all relevant factors and after having consulted all other industrial interests, recommended to members that additional to the 10% increase in wages given in November 1939, an allowance of Re. 1 per month should be granted with effect from June 1941 to all labourers irrespective of their wages and hours of work. It was recognised that reconsideration of the position would be necessary if prices rose to still higher levels; and arrangements continued to be made to keep the managers of mills posted of the trend of foodstuff and other prices.

Since then the prices of commodities were observed to rise above all previous levels and the cost of living index stood as follows :—

7th July	114
6th August	117
5th September	117
7th October	120
22nd November	121
8th December	129

The position created by a jump of 8 points within a fortnight as indicated by the last figure was considered sufficiently serious to warrant concerted action by employing interest in approaches to Government in order to obtain some clear indication of what they proposed to do to prevent inflationary tendencies before they got out of control. While Government action in checking abnormal rises in price could not be expected within a short time, it was advocated that the wage position of the labour should be examined from time to time in the light of these continuously changing costs of living.

An attempt is being made to collect sufficient wage rate data for their complete examination and attempts also are being made to assess the jute mill worker's position relative to that in other industries.

Urgent representations have been submitted to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce—since the question affects all industrialists—for more stringent action by Government in the matter of price control. It was suggested that as a first step a meeting of the Industrial Affairs Sub-Committee of the Chamber should be held to discuss the whole subject in all its bearings and that thereafter a representative deputation from the Chamber should wait on local Government Ministers to suggest ways and means of introducing price control. The Association made known its willingness to co-operate with Government and finance bulk purchases of rice, atta, cloth etc., in such quantities as might be necessary for the workers in jute mill areas. The Association felt confident that by bulk purchases from the primary

producer and by their retail through shop-keepers or co-operative stores to workers, a considerable relief would be afforded to consumers.

As a preliminary in helping the easy and natural flow of commodities and particularly primary foodstuffs, and further to assess the effects of present circumstances on retail agencies, further general enquiries are being instituted by the Association who also are analysing the cost of living index and the methods on which it is based and compiled.

**Labour Legislation : General.**—Members are referred to the 1940 report for an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the decision of the Central Government to inaugurate Conferences as between them on the one hand and on the other hand but in distinct and separate meetings (1) provincial Governments and Indian States (2) employers' organisations and (3) representatives of the workers. The first of these meetings with representatives of employers was held in January 1941 and the second took place in January 1942; and these Conferences are welcomed by all parties as affording a means whereby items of importance in the labour legislative field can be frankly and fully discussed before anything definite is done in the framing of enactments. Their value in time of war is the more clear as it introduces a measure of uniformity in action greatly to be desired, the want of which has been keenly felt, and enables some of the problems to be surveyed if not fully tackled and ideas and suggestions exchanged on trends in legislative matters which all cannot be left over until the war is finished.

The Association have been represented at each of these Conferences with employing interests and at the second one in January, 1942, the Chairman (Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E.) was able to be present when there was discussed the following :—

- (a) Sickness insurance;
- (b) Industrial fatigue;
- (c) Amendments of the Payment of Wages Act;
- (d) Amendments of the Workmen's Compensation Act;  
and
- (e) Night shift work.

The changes which took place late in 1941 in the personnel of the Viceroy's Executive Council involved the separation of the portfolios of Commerce and Labour and a new member for Labour in the person of the Hon'ble Sir Feroz Khan Noon was appointed shortly before the Conference took place. By reason of this and because of this entirely distinct Department having been created for Labour, the Central Government could not give to industrial interests the time necessary to study and consider all the implications of these five before-mentioned subjects; and the notes on their proposals were in fact received just prior to the Christmas Holidays and precluded all chance of a reference to constituent members of this as well as of other Industrial Associations likely to be affected. That, therefore, only general indications of the reactions of industrialists could be given was fully appreciated by the Central Government who now have been made fully aware of the importance which attaches to ample notice of these meetings if their purpose is to be fully implemented; and the Hon'ble the Labour Member has asked that views in writing should be submitted to the Department on the various items mentioned.

In so far as they concern the jute mill industry therefore—for instance the subject of night shifts and the conditions applicable are but of academic interest to jute mills—a reference to members can be expected on these subjects in the course of 1942 and no mention of the subjects discussed will now be made other than in very general terms.

Sickness insurance in other than the abstract was before the Conference for the first time and the feeling of industrial interests was that progress should be made in this country with such schemes but on very gradual lines embracing for the time being only monetary payments for periods of sickness in which there should be participation by the State, the employee, and the employer. Having regard to the complete lack of reliable data on which to found schemes of sickness insurance, the start would be small touching only one or two industries which are highly organised—the textile industries (jute and cotton) and heavy engineering were cited—but on an all-India basis and mainly experimental in shape and character. A scheme in rough outline has been framed by the Association for this purpose which will be the subject of consideration by the Committee before issue to

members; for one noticeable feature of the Conference was that employers unanimously favour in principle a scheme of sickness insurance but wish that all its implications in a country such as this should not be borne solely by them but should be a responsibility shared by the State and by the employee it is intended to benefit.

Industrial fatigue assumes considerable importance in time of war when maximum output must be achieved but here again lack of adequate data from industry and of any skilled independent bodies of experts in the collation and consideration of data, prevent any conclusions of real worth. Certain statistics were produced by the Indian Jute Mills Association at the Conference which, however, demonstrated that the exemptions which had been given them from the provisions of the Factories Act as regards the working hours of the labour had not by any means reached a stage where it could be said that the total productive capacity of the industry had been adversely affected although the outturn per man hour had decreased but not in that disadvantageous way which unceasing continuous hours of work was said to have had on other industries. Nothing again could be demonstrated in favour of the retention of only the maximum hours permitted by the Factories Act (54 per week) because of the ill effects on the health of the labour; and as perhaps a factor of considerable bearing on this state of affairs, the long mid-day break in working hours generally observed in the jute mill industry in Bengal was cited as one seemingly in industry, confined to the mills.

The amendments of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Payment of Wages Act have been commented on elsewhere in this report and as already has been stated, the restrictive conditions on night shift working designed apparently as a permanent feature of industrial legislation in this country, are but of academic interest to the jute mills.

The Conferences with representatives of employees and with the representatives of the Local Governments and of the Indian States have also taken place in January/February 1942 and will form together with what later will be detailed in writing by industrial interests, the basis for further study and progress with the more important of labour problems now before the country.

On all that has taken place in previous Conferences, members have been fully advised through summarised statements issued by the Employers Federation of India; and one on the Conference held in January 1941 is now in course of print and should shortly be in members' hands.

Other sections of this report deal with the details of Government's Legislative programme and also with main items of the Committee's endeavours in the labour field. Other subjects which the Association have tackled in matters affecting the labour are:—

(a) *Budli system and labour bureaux*.—In the interests of the jute mill industry as a whole and to systematise all labour problems, in deference to the wishes of the Hon'ble Labour Minister of the Government of Bengal, an attempt has been made to have a common and reliable system in the matter of employment of all labour particularly where it affects budlis.

The Bombay Millowners Association at the request of this Association furnished details of their study of this problem, and the procedure for the regulation and employment of budli workers which has been operating successfully among the Bombay mills. All member mills that have already instituted labour bureaux were also addressed with a request to give the Association in detail relevant information in regard to the aims, working and success of their bureaux.

The replies received have been carefully studied and because of the unanimous approbation expressed by those mills who are fortunate in having already started bureaux, the Association are now preparing a circular, summarising the replies in order to exhort the other member mills to give this matter their consideration. It is felt that this will not only prove beneficial to them, but will, in co-ordinated and united action on the part of all mills, contribute in no small measure to the ideal aimed at by the Association, namely, the preservation of harmonious relationships between employer and employed and a stability amongst labour.

(b) *Bengal Maternity Benefit Act and Rules.*—Certain difficulties were observed in the administration of this Act, and after placing them before the Industrial Legislation Sub-Committee and having received legal opinion on relevant sections which gave rise to misapprehension, guidance notes for the assistance of members and their managers were prepared in this office and issued to all members with the approval of the Committee by Circular No. 181-D, dated 24th July 1941.

At the Calcutta Conference of Labour Ministers in January 1941 the subject of the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines was discussed. It was generally agreed by the delegates that maternity benefits should be extended to women employed in coal mines on principles similar to those which were applied in respect of factory labour. Further, the legislation should be uniformly applicable to all provinces and those with no legislation in this regard should make an early correction. This decision in respect of coal mines has been implemented by legislation.

(c) *Protection of labour against the illegal realisation of debts.*—The Committee's first attempt to bring home to members the means by which they could assist in the protection of their workers against the illegal realisation of debts followed close on the legislation passed by the Bengal Legislature with the object of regulating money lending and providing legal safeguards against the objectionable methods practised by money-lenders in recouping sums lent to the workers. In Circular No. 34-D of the 12th February 1941, the legal position was surveyed from the angle of the protection afforded by the law of the land against molestation for the purposes of recovery of debts and loitering at or near the worker's place of employment or the place where wages are paid with the object of recovering debt. In both cases the offence is punishable with imprisonment or fine and since it is cognisable, the Police can arrest without warrant if there is suspicion of an offence or if information is given them. Cases of molestation are covered by section 41 of the Bengal Money Lenders Act and the offence of loitering at or near the factory or place where wages are paid, cared for by the Bengal Workmen's Protection Act.

Through the labour officers, contact was established with the Police and the various Government authorities concerned and

their co-operation warmly secured in support to the action recommended by the Committee to member mills, namely, that on all possible occasions they should make a complaint to the Police with the double object of having prosecutions made and of bringing to the notice of the labour, the protection given them by the law. The type of information to be furnished was indicated to member mills in the circular referred to, and many additional copies supplied at members' requests so that they could give effect to the further suggestion that each member of the supervisory staff should be instructed to aid in the achievement of its objects by explaining the position to sirdars and other responsible members of the labour force.

Nothing of permanent value can be achieved in the eradication of what is known to be a deep-seated evil without the continuous active support of the managerial staff nor can the legislation—which is wide in form—be fully effective without their co-operation and action on the lines which have been recommended in Circular No. 34-D of 1941. The Committee would again invite your attention to that circular and would appeal for action continuously to be taken on the lines recommended. It is because the legislation referred to in it affords one of the most effective means of improving the condition of Indian labour that they do so and place its terms on permanent record by the incorporation of the circular as part of the appendices to this report.

This reference by the Committee dealt with one aspect of the legislative regulation of money-lending under the Bengal Money Lenders Act—namely molestation—but as will be seen from the separate paragraph in the report, a thorough study had been made of that measure and all possible means taken of having its terms made known to the workers through pamphlets talks etc. That study has not yet been fully completed; for further action is necessary if the effects of the measure in all its aspects are to be witnessed.

(d) *Bengal Money Lenders Act, 1940*.—Copies of a summary of above-mentioned Act prepared in the office of the Labour Commissioner, Bengal, were forwarded to members in March and were intended for the information and study of the managerial staff. Further, a short and simple summary of the Act suitable



for jute mill workers was evolved in this office; and vernacular prints were despatched for the use of labour. Suitable posters for exhibition at the mill gates, coolie lines etc., were also elaborated with the purpose of providing some measure of permanent attention to the provisions of the Act, in an endeavour to minimise the worst of the evils it is designed to eradicate.

In connection with this question and as a result of certain ideas put forward to the Registrar of Money Lenders, Bengal, an enquiry by the Association into the worker's indebtedness will be initiated and consideration given to the possibility of establishing Co-operative Credit Societies in the mills.

The matter is still under consideration pending the submission of model rules from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengal.

A statistical survey of indebtedness has already been effected in the case of a few mills and the extension of this appreciation to all jute mills has been started and it is hoped that its completion will take place shortly. Indebtedness is a terrible burden imposed on labour and the ideal aimed at is to scale it down in the first instance with the help of Government under the Act, and in the second instance, consider its transference to properly controlled societies.

(c) *Provision of war news for the labour in the jute mills.*—The 14 wireless sets established in various mills throughout the industrial area, as an experimental measure, have served a very useful purpose. Their extension to every mill is strongly recommended and would in this realisation increase the advantages hitherto enjoyed.

The Association's labour officers have devoted a great deal of time and attention to this form of propaganda which has also had the support and appreciation of mill managers. The work has been conducted throughout in direct collaboration with the Director of the Calcutta Centre, A. I. R. and every endeavour has been made to improve the programmes prepared for the benefit of the labour force in jute mills.

An innovation was made this year of using mill workers to speak periodically during the programme, in the hope that the

sound of a familiar voice recording items of war news or simple dialogues on matters of health, sanitation etc., would by its touch of local colour increase the appreciation of labour generally and heighten the effect this form of propaganda was meant to achieve.

This medium was further developed to convey information to labour in regard to the control of prices of food, correct and interesting activities of the war, air raid precautionary measures, as well as short and simple dialogues illustrating the various Acts, recently passed for the benefit of labour.

To uphold and extend the aims and purposes of this scheme nearly 1100 copies of the Indian News Letter in four different vernaculars are weekly mailed direct to jute mill workers, from the office of the Indian War News Group, thus affording labour a correct appreciation of the war and how it affects them, in contradiction of false and pernicious rumours spread amongst them with the sole object of creating panic and disturbing labour conditions.

The Association have worked throughout in the closest collaboration with the Public Relations Sub-Committee of Bengal War Committee and are pleased to record the complete success this provision of war news for the labour force has had since its innovation.

(f) *Recognition of trade unions.*—The subject of recognition of trade unions was discussed at the first Conference of Labour Ministers. That Conference while generally realising that for industrial harmony the question of recognition of trade unions by employers was of the first importance, felt that there was not sufficient material before it to enable any useful conclusion to be reached. It was therefore decided that the question should be left over for consideration by the various Governments and that further discussion on the subject would take place at the next Conference. The Government of India accordingly communicated the decision of the Conference to the Provincial Governments and Administrations and invited their views, details of which can be found in the summary of the Proceedings of the 2nd Conference of Provincial Labour Ministers held in January 1941.

The chief points for consideration by the Second Labour Ministers Conference were :—

- (i) whether recognition of registered trade unions should be made compulsory by law; and
- (ii) if so, what should be the conditions which a trade union must satisfy to obtain and retain recognition?

### CONCLUSION.

There seemed to be general agreement on the following points :—

1. That it was desirable to have Central Legislation laying down the conditions under which trade unions may be recognised by Provincial Governments.

2. That such legislation should lay down merely the basic principles, and Provincial Governments should be given the power to add to the conditions laid down in the Central Legislation before recognition was granted by them to any trade union.

3. That the basic conditions should be on the lines of these given below.

4. That the Central Legislation should also lay down that a trade union recognised by a Provincial Government should also be recognised by the employer or association of employers, as the case may be.

5. That such union should include not merely trade unions representative of workers in a particular industry, but also trade unions representing labour in any individual industrial concern.

6. That it should be left to Provincial Governments to fix or not to fix a minimum membership, before granting such recognition.

7. That Provincial Governments would confer such powers or rights or lay down such duties as they might consider desirable on any trade union which had been so recognised.

### Conditions for recognition of Trade Union.

(Vide Point 3 above).

- (i) The union should fulfil the requirements of the Trade Union Act.
- (ii) The membership of the union should not be restricted on communal or other religious grounds.
- (iii) The union should submit a copy of the membership list to the Government.
- (iv) The executive of the union should meet at least once in a quarter and must be fully acquainted with all important matters relating to the union.

- (v) The trade union should have been in existence at least for six months.

(g) *Sport activities: football in the jute mills areas.*—Certain of the mills in the membership of this Association have had for some time organised competitive football amongst their workers. The Association, impressed with the keen interest and marked appreciation of the labour in this sport, have issued a recommendation to all members in the Calcutta industrial area that they should do everything in their power to encourage and develop this sport either by inter-mill matches as far as their own industrial units are concerned or by the formation of district leagues comprised of teams from each of the jute mills in the different districts round Calcutta. The Secretary of the Indian Football Association was approached with the suggestion and asked to organise a scheme whereby coaches would be sent to each of the districts for the benefit not only of the boys but also of the workers.

A circular in this connection was sent to member mills embodying a special appeal endorsed strongly by the Special Labour Sub-Committee to encourage and develop these activities as widely as possible.

A scheme for the growth, development, organisation and co-ordination of football in the jute mill areas, has been submitted to the Indian Jute Mills Association by Mr. Gupta on behalf of the A. I. F. and is under consideration.

Although football has already been started and league matches successfully played in some mills, the object visualised in this direction is to inaugurate football on an organised basis, incorporating all the jute mills under one centralised control.

In order to foster sports among jute mills, consideration will be given to grants-in-aid to further the scheme as well as the possibility of encouragement through a tournament organised for a shield to be presented by the Association.

(h) *Training of jute mills workers.*—At the request of the Principal of the Bengal Textile Institute,

Serampore, last year all the members agreed to the installation of certain productive jute mill machinery in the Serampore Institute as it is the only one of its kind in Bengal which provides a practical training course for workers in the industry.

A scheme for the re-organisation of the Institute has been formulated at the instance of the Government of Bengal but not yet passed by Government.

This scheme visualises the Institute having two courses, a higher course and an operatives' training course. The higher course will be a complete textile technological course extending over three years. The minimum qualification required for admission to this course is the I.Sc. examination of a university with a combination of physics, chemistry and mathematics. Forty students could be catered for in this course.

The operatives' course will include four distinct parts, namely, cotton weaving, cotton winding and warping, jute weaving, and jute winding, each part having two sessions a year; and provision for 112 trainees has been made.

As regards the location and building of the Institute, it is suggested in the scheme that the Institute should be removed to a new site where plenty of land is available at a reasonable price. This site should preferably be nearer to and more easily accessible from Calcutta. The area of the land should be such as to accommodate all the existing departments of the Institute and also leave sufficient room for future developments.

The scheme also suggests that the present equipment of the Institute should be increased for training and demonstration and not for production which should remain outside the scope of a teaching institution.

**Index to labour laws.**—There has been issued under the authority of the Committee a comprehensive index to the labour laws particularly as they are in force in Bengal. The work which is that of Mr. J. J. B. Sutherland and Mr. B. Sinha is in two volumes and by this means there has been brought together in

alphabetical form and comprehensively in that it brings under the one particular sub-head all legislation affecting it, a guide to, and an appreciation of how, labour legislation as a whole stands to affect employing interests in their work. The first volume contains the alphabetical index and the second the Acts and the Rules which have been dealt with in the index.

Other industrial interests whose interests are also affected by the same legislative measures as dealt with in the work referred to have availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase the volumes which are offered at Rs. 6/- for the two books which is sufficient to defray the costs of printing incurred by the Association.

**Employers Federation of India.**—As a forum for the collective expression of views on the part of employing interests in all that concerns them in matters which stand to affect their general interests, the Employers Federation of India stands unrivalled in India in importance and in the functions which it performs. The President since its inauguration has been Sir Homi Mody but by his being called upon to act as Supply Member in the Indian Government, he had to resign and now Sir Ardeshir Dalal of Tatas is the President. Sir Henry Richardson and Mr. R. Menzies are two of the Deputy Presidents—a third has still to be elected—and the Head Office of the Federation is at Patel House, Churchate Street, Bombay.

The Eastern India Committee of the Employers Federation was formed some time back to act as the collective media for the expression of industrialist views on the Eastern side of India on the many problems which generally affect industrialists; and Mr. W. A. M. Walker, C.B.E., represents the Association's interests on that body whose secretarial work is performed by the secretarial staff of the Chamber acting in an honorary capacity.

**The Factories Act and the Rules thereunder :—(a) The Act.**—The only amendment to the Factories Act in the year under review was one introduced to remove certain defects which had been found in Section 5. These defects were

explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons for the amending Act by the Central Government to be :—

“Section 5 of the Factories Act, 1934, has been found defective in two respects :

In the first place, a notification under sub-section (1) can apply only to such factories as were in existence on the date of the notification and not to factories similar in all respects which may be established subsequently, though, of course, such later established factories could be notified separately.

Secondly, factories once brought under the scope of the Act by virtue of a notification under sub-section (1) may subsequently cease to be under it by the operation of the provisions in sub-section (3) if they employ less than 10 workers continuously for 12 months: and if a factory goes out of the ambit of the Act in this manner, a fresh notification will be necessary to bring it back within the Act when it again employs more than 10 persons.

The Bill, which is intended to remedy these defects, seeks to give power to Provincial Governments to enable them to notify once for all the application of the provisions of the Act to any specified classes of establishments employing ten or more persons.”

To this verbal amendment of the Act, no objections were taken and accordingly Section 5 of the Act now reads :—

- (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare that all or any of the provisions of this Act applicable to factories shall apply to any place wherein a manufacturing process is being carried on or is ordinarily carried on whether with or without the use of power whenever ten or more workers are working therein or have worked therein on any one day of the twelve months immediately preceding.
- (2) A notification under sub-section (1) may be made in respect of any one such place or in respect of any class of such places or generally in respect of all such places.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (j) of section 2, a place, to which all or any of the provisions of this Act applicable to factories are for the time being applicable in pursuance of a declaration under sub-section (1), shall, to the extent to which such provisions are so made applicable but not otherwise, be deemed to be a factory.

Consideration had been given to a suggestion made by the Local Government that fees for registration should be charged all factories registered under the Factories Act but this was opposed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on behalf of all industrial interests.

The Government of Bengal, Department of Commerce and Labour, proposed that since the staff of the Factory Inspection Department must be augmented to deal with additional duties imposed on them by the revised Factories Act and also by the Payment of Wages Act, the Employment of Children Act and the Bengal Maternity Benefit Act, the Inspection Department should be made self-supporting through the imposition of registration fees payable by factory owners.

Whilst supporting the plea that the additional duties and responsibilities of the Factory Inspection Department required augmentation of the staff, the Committee were strongly opposed to any suggestion that the financial burden in the administration of that department should be a direct charge on factory owners. Their main argument was that the factory inspection department did not perform functions of sole benefit to factory owners, that these services were primarily for the benefit of labour and of the public seeking employment in industrial concerns, and that therefore it was wrong in principle to ask one section of the public to bear the costs of a service designed for the community in general.

Following their usual practice, the Committee had extracts taken from the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, on the working of the Factories Act for 1940. These references which are confined to matters of general or particular concern to the jute mill industry were reproduced in a printed memorandum of the 5th September 1941 sent to all members of the Association.

A general exemption from certain provisions of the Factories Act had been given all jute mills shortly after the war but this had been withdrawn towards the end of 1940 as trade conditions did not warrant its continuance and there was evidence of it



being used in a manner which was not intended when given. The Bengal Government have, however, continued their most helpful attitude towards the industry in the grant of necessary exemptions and the Association have co-operated with the Factory Inspection Authorities in ensuring that these will be given only when and where required. It is in pursuance of this policy that, when trade circumstances and the heavy demand for rotproofed sandbags necessitated much longer hours in certain portions of the mill establishment, the exemption granted under Section 8 was not made generally applicable but only to named mills. This policy has also been followed by other local Governments with whom the Association have worked in the closest conjunction.

The position is that exemption has been given in Bengal to the factories named in Circular No. 293-D of the 13th November 1941 from the requirements of Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 45 although now two other mills, through the labour shortages since Japan's entry into the war, were forced early in 1942 to reduce their working hours and needed exemption in order to work the maximum hours possible on a single shift.

In Madras, exemption has been given from the requirements of Section 34 to the Nellimarla and Chitavalsah Mills ; and the Government of Bihar have given exemption from the requirements of Sections 34 and 36 to the Rameshwara Mills.

In connection with these exemptions and the calculation of overtime payments, certain guidance notes to members were formulated and issued in Circular No. 324-D of the 9th December 1941 which because of its permanent value as an authoritative record - the notes are those of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal—of the overtime payments due under the Act, is reproduced as an appendix to this report.

(b) *The Rules.*—There have been no changes in the Rules in the year under review.

**The Payment of Wages Act and the Rules thereunder : (a) *The Act*.**—No changes have been made in this legislation in the year under review.

An interesting point on the interpretation of the Act by a decision of the Chief Court of Sind was summarised in an attachment to Circular No. 142-D of the 13th June 1941 in which it was held that a reduction of a worker's pay was a deduction within the meaning of the Act and furthermore was, in the particular instance under consideration, a fine. As no such deduction and/or fine is permitted by the terms of the Payment of Wages Act, it was held therefore to be illegal to reduce a man's wages and place him in a lower scale of earnings. From a practical point of view, however, it was not a handicap to the employer if he wished by this means to punish a worker who had committed a fault; for all that it was necessary to do was to dismiss the man and offer him re-employment at the lower (reduced) rate of pay.

It was not the intention of the Act that employers should be debarred from either reducing men to lower grades of pay or withholding increments and this has been recognised by the Central Government who as one of the many proposals made for an amendment of the Act, discussed at the January 1942 conference with employing interests, proposed to make such actions permissible under the Act.

Experience of the Act and the rules in their workings and practical effects have revealed a number of ways in which they should be amended and proposals to this end have been made by the Central Government which were discussed at the Conference between them and employing interests over which the Hon'ble Member for Labour presided in Calcutta on the 2nd January 1942. These have yet to be considered and commented on in detail by the Committee of the Association: they already have been the subject of comment prior to the Conference in question by the Association's Industrial Legislation Sub-Committee who were aided in their study of how this measure affected the jute mill industry by the replies which had been received to a reference made to members in 1940 when it was anticipated that such a review of the Act would be undertaken by Government.

Members will in due course be advised of the outcome of the Committee's study of the amendments referred to, the principal

one in which is concerned with the correct definition of "wages", a matter which has always aroused considerable controversy.

In recording matters of interest under this head, it has also to be noted that the Association applied for and obtained the permission of the Bengal Government to have regarded as distinct from wages and classified as an amenity under Section 2(vi)(a) of the Act, the one rupee allowance given to the labour in June 1941. Similar application has been made in respect of the six days' holidays with pay but no reply has yet been received from the Government of Bengal. The main grounds for these applications are that since these monies are in the nature of concessions it would be wrong to have them subject to fines and deductions as permitted by the Act: they should be granted to the labour without such liabilities attaching to them and given on the conditions and obligations decided upon as most suited to their grant which might conceivably clash with provisions of the Act or amendments of its terms designed solely to deal with money which properly should be classified as wages.

(b) *The rules*.—There is nothing to comment on under this head; for no changes have been made in the Bengal rules under this Act.

**The National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance 1940.**—The administration of this Ordinance gave rise to a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of members, and to clarify the salient points and problems entailed, a detailed explanation of this Ordinance and particularly of Section 13 with all its implications was undertaken, and sent to all members under Circular No 330-D dated 12th December, 1941.

To help the Association in any further consideration as regards the position of mills which circumstances might dictate as necessary, mills were asked to furnish certain particulars with reference to the members of technical personnel already withdrawn or called up. The replies have now been received and the whole subject is under the consideration of the Association.

**The Trade Disputes Act.**—Mention was made in the Committee's Report for 1940 of the informal discussions between the Central Government and employing interests of the lines on

which the Trade Disputes Act could be amended; and it was anticipated that detailed proposals would be set up by Government in the form of a Bill to amend the existing Act and submitted—midway in 1941—to industrial interests for their further consideration. These anticipations have not been realised.

For the better control of trade disputes and in the avoidance of strikes and lock-outs, the Central Government, however, have recently amended the Defence of India Rules by adding to them a new Rule which provides:—

- (1) If in the opinion of the Central Government it is necessary or expedient so to do for securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, or for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community, the Central Government may, by general or special order, applying generally or to any specified area, and to any undertaking or class of undertakings, make provision for all or any of the following matters, namely :—
  - (a) prohibiting, subject to the provisions of the order, a strike or lock-out in connection with any trade dispute ;
  - (b) referring or authorizing the Provincial Government to refer, any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided in the order ;
  - (c) requiring employers to observe such terms and conditions of employment as may be determined in accordance with the order to be, or to be not less favourable than, those existing in their respective undertakings at any time within 3 months preceding the date of the order ;

and any such order may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Central Government to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order.
- (2) Unless any such order makes express provision to the contrary, nothing therein shall affect the power to refer any trade dispute or matters connected therewith for report or settlement under the Trade Disputes Act, 1920 (VII of 1920).
- (3) Nothing in the Arbitration Act, 1940 (X of 1940) shall apply to any proceedings under any such order.
- (4) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this rule, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

- (5) In this rule, the expression "undertaking" means any undertaking by way of trade or business, and the expressions "employer", "lock-out", "strike" and "trade dispute" have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Section 2 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1920 (VII of 1920).

The Committee have given consideration to these powers especially in the light of conditions ruling in a certain mill area from the middle of January, 1942, but felt it would be desirable that the industry of its own accord should settle trade disputes and differences.

**The War Injuries Ordinance.**—On the 25th July the Government of India published the War Injuries Ordinance empowering the Central Government to make a scheme or schemes for the grant of relief in respect of certain personal injuries sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities, and on the 1st January 1942 issued an Amendment Ordinance together with details of the war injuries scheme. The Amendment Ordinance and the scheme were at once published for the information of all members of the Association in Circular No. 16-D dated 15th January 1942, and with a subsequent circular issued on the 17th January members were sent an English version of a notice which it was recommended should be issued to jute mill workers in their own languages, to acquaint them with the broad outlines of the scheme. This notice explained that medical and surgical treatment would be given free of cost to those who were injured; that if the injuries resulted in a temporary absence from work an allowance for the period so lost would be paid at the rate of Rs. 13/8/- a month; that if the injuries resulted in serious or prolonged disablement, a monthly pension, varying from Rs. 6 to Rs. 13/8/- a month according to the injuries sustained, would be paid; that in the event of death a pension of Rs. 8 a month would be paid to the worker's widow, or where there was no widow to some other member of his family, plus an allowance of Rs. 2 a month in respect of each minor child; and that proportionately higher payments and pensions up to Rs. 18 a month would be paid to A. R. P. workers. The notice emphasised the fact that no payments of any kind would be given to workers who deserted their posts, and concluded with a re-assurance that there was no need for alarm.

The circular with which this notice was issued informed members that a note giving a more detailed explanation of the war injuries scheme would be sent to them at a later date.

**The Workmen's Compensation Act.**—Several proposals for the amendment of this Act, made by the Central Government, were the subject of discussion at a conference in January 1942 between representatives of Government and of employing organisations. It is not proposed to detail here the proposals in question as all of them are confined either to matters of legal drafting in order that certain points of the measure can be made more clear or to extensions of the scope of the Act which in no way affect the jute mill industry. However, it is of interest to note that Government are considering the desirability of amending the Act to provide for the appointment of medical referees; as members are aware the Government of Bengal have already drafted a measure for this purpose which has passed through the Upper House and will be before the Assembly at its next meeting in February, 1942.

**The Bengal Shops and Establishments Act and the Rules thereunder.**—This Act was passed by the Bengal Legislature, received the assent of the Governor, and was first published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 31st October 1940. It is principally designed to regulate the hours of work, the holidays, payment of wages and the leave of persons employed in shops and establishments for public entertainment or amusement but *mutatis mutandis* it also seeks to control such questions of leave, wage payment periods and the holidays of the clerical staff in commercial firms and in the offices of factories.

The requirements of the Act in so far as the clerical staff in a mill is concerned are threefold :—

- (1) one and a half days holiday per week must be given to the clerical staff;
- (2) wages must be paid not later than the 10th day of the following month; and
- (3) should an employee wish to avail himself of it, 14 days privilege leave with full pay must be given after 12 months service, and a further 10 days' casual leave on half pay.

These conditions are not onerous and are more or less in line with what rules in mill practice generally at the present time and the Committee therefore were averse to any applications for exemption from the provisions of the Act as regards mill clerical staff and though it would be impolitic for the Association to do so as had been urged by certain members.

The Act which was brought into force from the 1st April, 1911, does not apply to all clerical staff; for because of the nature of the work in factories, exemptions are given in respect of certain of the clerical staff. The Committee in their detailed exposition of the Act and the rules contained in Circular No. 325-D of the 9th December 1911 recommended that members should not discriminate as between their staff but should apply the conditions uniformly and do so even were the mill not for the time being within the scope of the Act which meantime is restricted in its application to Calcutta, its suburbs, and the municipality of Howrah.

Mr. A. E. B. Murshedi is the Chief Inspector under the Act and the Government of Bengal's labour officers are the inspectors for the purposes of this legislation. The office of the Chief Inspector is at 7, Church Lane, Calcutta.

#### **Government of India Technical Training Scheme.—**

On the 24th February the Senior Regional Inspector, Eastern Circle, Technical Training, addressed the Indian Engineering Association who passed on the particulars to the Industrial Affairs Sub-Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with the suggestion that other industrial interests with the necessary facilities might be prepared to co-operate in the Government training scheme as part of the war effort. All members were invited to notify the Association of their ability and willingness to co-operate.

This scheme has as its object the provision of facilities for the training in private workshops of tradesmen required for Ordnance Factories etc. Mills willing to co-operate with Government in the training of skilled workmen were requested to communicate direct with Mr. Vernon, the Senior Regional Inspector.

Two points were raised in this connection by firms who were prepared to take trainees. They were referred to Government for decision and read as follows:—

- (1) It was pointed out that the rates of stipend decided on by Government were higher in most cases than those being paid by private firms to trainees and apprentices whom they already had in their works, and that in consequence a certain amount of dissatisfaction was likely to be caused by the higher remuneration being received by the trainees under the new scheme. The Government have replied to this point as follows:—

“The rates of stipend were decided after very careful consideration and the Government of India are not prepared to modify them in any way. Arrangements could however be made with the

Bengal Tribunal to send only non-matriculates to the Mills to which you refer, in which case their stipends would be limited to Rs. 20/- per month. Trainees under the Technical Training Scheme have no guarantee of permanent employment and in this respect are probably in a less favourable position than apprentices who are serving with Engineering firms”.

- (2) It was pointed out that the scale of fines permitted under the new Training Scheme was not in conformity with the Payment of Wages Act and that no provision had been made regarding compensation to trainees who are injured during the course of training. To these points, the Government have replied as follows:—

“We have already decided that fines and deductions at all training centres should be governed by the Payment of Wages Act and that the payment of stipends during absences from duty due to injuries received while at work should be governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Government of India have already accepted full liability for trainees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, so this decision will not involve any liability to firms who may agree to undertake training.”

The reply given by Government on the question of stipends did not seem very convincing, and was the subject of a talk in



October with Mr. Vernon who was satisfied with what mills are doing but would like to see the work widened and more mills participating in the scheme.

The urgent need at the moment is for fitters, and mills which have no facilities for training fitters will be supplied, if necessary, by Government with one vice and one kit with tools for each fitter trainee and also an allowance for the construction of a vice bench. If 40 mills would take ten fitters each, 400 fitters could be under training. They are urgently required for the I. A. O. C. as well as Ordnance Factories. After 4 months training in the mills the trainees would start to be transferred to Army Training Centres. While fitters have been specifically mentioned, it would help further if any mill or mills could undertake to train turners, electricians and/or electric welders. Where mills are already training men, if they can train more, it would be appreciated.

Mr. Vernon was to raise the question regarding the difference in pay between Government trainees and ordinary apprentices when he was in Delhi in November. Further information in this regard is awaited in this office.

**The Working Time Agreement.**—At the beginning of the year under review, mills with more than 220 looms were working 45 hours a week in accordance with a resolution passed in July 1940 under the provisions of the Association's Working Time Agreement. The Committee continued throughout the year to examine the question of working hours in the light of each month's stock figures and other relevant factors, such as the availability of shipping space, and decided that under the terms of the Supplementary Agreement which was adopted in August 1940, mills should remain closed for one week in January and again in March. (In February, all weeks were worked). Thereafter, the trading factors were such that the Committee did not find it necessary to apply a week's closure in any subsequent month.

The working hours of mills with more than 220 looms were maintained at 45 a week until the 1st September, when in pursuance of a resolution passed at a special general meeting of members held on the 28th August, they were increased to 50.

A further increase to 54 hours a week took place on the 13th October, and early in November, as a result of orders from the Government of India for more than eleven and a half crores of yards of hessian cloth, the Committee received, under Clause 7(3) of the Agreement, a requisition from more than fifty-one percent of the voting strength of the Association that they should recommend an immediate increase in working hours commensurate with the new conditions. A special meeting of the Committee was held on the 5th November at which it was decided to increase the working hours of mills with more than 220 looms to 60 a week with immediate effect, and this was accordingly done. The increase was ratified at a special meeting of members held on the 6th November, and the Association at once obtained the requisite exemptions from the provisions of the Factories Act to enable the mills concerned to work a 60 hour week.

In other respects, the Agreement has continued smoothly to operate as in previous years. Members were informed of all exemptions etc., granted by the Committee to member mills by means of the proceedings of Committee meetings; and when the issue of these proceedings was discontinued, members were kept informed through the medium of a special circular which was issued at the beginning of each month.

**The Futures Markets.**—Copies of Professor Todd's interim report on the workings of the futures markets in jute and in hessian together with all his notes on the principles and practice of futures trading and the use of futures in the jute trade have been given to all members of the Association. Government invited the views of member mills on that interim report and it was decided that, through the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce would act as the co-ordinating medium in placing before Government the views of those sections of the industry and trade represented by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or in the various trading associations which are connected with the Chamber.

The Association's views were expressed in detail in a letter of the 23rd June sent to the Chamber, a copy of which was given all members under cover of Circular No. 155-D of the same date. A summary of these views reads:—

(a) The examination undertaken by Professor Todd was characterised as one confined solely to a considera-

tion of whether the existing so called "futures" markets conformed to the theoretical conception of futures operations and little consideration paid to the major practical point of whether the jute industry needed these markets for the proper and efficient conduct of their trade.

- (b) No detailed reasons for and against futures trading had been expressed in the Todd Report and the limiting conditions of trading in times of war had not been touched on nor had the factors of a controlled acreage under the Bengal Jute Regulation Act been fully assessed.
- (c) The Todd Report showed that never in the history of the industry had there been at their command the services which futures markets can render; and whilst this was insufficient to assert that no benefits could be derived from a futures market on the lines suggested in the Todd Report, it was sufficient to claim that the recommendations in that Report proposed only to build an elaborate structure on the existing trading fabric to serve a purpose never before afforded, for which there had been no demand from the industry, and one whose benefits could only be entirely conjectural and problematical.
- (d) The present time was inopportune for the initiation of a revised futures market even apart from the fact that it would be of little or no value with trading conditions restricted by war and the jute crop controlled by Government legislation.
- (e) Having regard to the foregoing, no further consideration should be devoted to the reforms and the whole subject postponed until the war was over.

The Committee developed these arguments *in extenso* and pointed to perhaps the only conclusive features of the interim report, namely, that the existing "Futka" markets were undesirable, unnecessary and harmful and run on lines which violated every principle of the theoretical conception of futures operations. They urged therefore that these markets should be

closed. Realising the existence of a certain body of opinion which would wish to see the continuance of futures operations, the Committee's letter did not close until they had given in detail what their views were on the reformed futures markets visualised in the Todd Report. It is not proposed to reiterate what these criticisms are but the Association expressed their strongest disapproval of the underlying idea of the Todd Report, namely, that trade in jute futures should be controlled by a monopolistic body established under Government legislation and on which there would be Government representatives. Government's active and direct participation in the jute trade in the running of futures was a conception of their functions entirely opposed to what had been previously regarded as Government's duties; and it was therefore urged that these duties could more properly and constitutionally be exerciseable through their passing an all-embracing Futures Act to the regulations rules and requirements in which all futures trading, no matter in what commodity, would be subject. Under such legislation, an appropriate commercial organisation controlled and operated by the trade would develop along lines such as would conform to those stipulated for futures operations in other countries of the world.

These views were supported in their entirety by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and its associated jute interests in a printed memorandum submitted by that body to Government on the 10th November, 1941. Views similar in essentials to those contained in the Association's letter summarised above, and all the points made by the Association against the futures markets were reiterated in the general conclusions arrived at in the Chamber's memorandum with but minor additions in the supporting reasons given.

Professor Todd returned to India in December and is engaged, it is understood, in a consideration of the criticisms levelled against his interim Report.

**The Industry's Trade: development of markets.**—In Circular No. 143-D of 13th June it was made known to members of the Association that owing to restriction of imports and other factors arising out of war conditions, certain consumers of speciality goods hitherto made by Dundee would now have to

turn to Calcutta to have their requirements met. These demands, it was intimated, would not be large and would mainly consist of small and somewhat specialised orders, but as the Secretary of State for India had made known the position to the Supply Department here and had asked for co-operation in this country in the matter of meeting the needs of small consumers in foreign allied and Empire countries, an appeal was made to members for their fullest co-operation in this particular direction.

Various means were taken to ensure that mills would be advised directly of this specialised business, and the assistance of the Commerce and other Government Departments concerned enlisted so that enquiries from traders in allied countries might be made known immediately to the Association. In addition, a special Sub-Committee was set up to deal with the problem and decide how best to assist the traders desiring to have such specialised demands met in Calcutta, and how to assist mills in their turn to meet such demands.

The Special Sub-Committee consisted of :—

Mr. G. M. GARRIE, *Chairman*.

„ M. P. BIRLA.

„ D. I. DUFF

„ K. D. JALAN.

„ I. G. KENNEDY.

„ W. F. SCOTT-KERR.

„ J. R. WALKER.

In the following months this Sub-Committee was able in several instances to make contacts between the consumers on the one hand and mills able to supply their needs on the other.

In order to utilise the resources of the Association to the full in this matter, and to have a complete record to hand of the capabilities of the mills to manufacture items not to be considered as standard goods, the Special Sub-Committee issued a questionnaire designed to elicit from the mills the information required. The classified lists of speciality goods to be prepared from the results of this questionnaire would then, it was suggested, be circulated to all members of the

Association, to the Adviser on Jute Supplies and all Supply Departments, and all shippers and brokers, who would thus be made fully aware of the mills' capacity for making speciality goods.

There was a good response by member mills to the appeal for their fullest co-operation in this particular part of the war effort, and the classified lists, when prepared, gave extremely interesting facts concerning the mills' progress in the manufacture of specialised items. As some time had elapsed between the sending out of the questionnaire and the submission of the classified lists to the Committee, the latter considered it expedient to have the lists revised and brought up to date before their final circulation in the manner indicated.

At the time of writing the mills are in the process therefore of revising the lists to present a true and detailed picture of the extent to which Calcutta can meet requirements which were previously met by Dundee.

**Restriction of imports of jute manufactures into Chile.**—The attention of the Committee had been drawn to the restriction of imports into Chile by the fixing of quotas for jute bags by the Chilean Government. Preference in the matter of quotas, it was stated, would be given to direct consumers, and they would be required to purchase national bags and imported bags in proportion to the quota allotted to them. Quotas had also been instituted for the import of jute sacking, and these also would be fixed in proportion to the amount of sacking produced by Chilean sacking factories during the previous six months.

A statistical note on the trade position with Chile over the past decade revealed that the Chilean market for jute goods was a very important one. In the circumstances and since there had recently been a British trade delegation in South America, the Committee addressed the Government of India, Commerce Department, enquiring if it was the intention of Government to take any action to have the restrictive Chilean decree rescinded or modified.

At the time of writing this report no reply has been received from the Commerce Department.

**Jute Marks and Standards:** (a) *Fixation of standards.*—After a very full discussion in Committee a circular—No. 110-D dated 3rd May—was issued detailing the jute marks and standards unanimously agreed on by the Committee for the season 1941-42. Copies of the circular were forwarded to the Calcutta Jute Dealers Association, the European Mofussil Jute Balers Association and the Bengal Jute Dealers Association who were asked for their fullest co-operation and support to the endeavours being made to stabilise marks and preserve them in operation throughout the season.

Strong objection was taken by the three Sellers Associations to the marks and standards decided on by the Committee, the opposition being based mainly on the introduction of the mark X, it being contended that this mark would interfere with the attempts being made to stabilise the standards. A joint meeting representative of the Associations interested was convened and, as a result of the discussions which took place there, slight modifications in the marks and standards laid down in Circular No. 110-D of 3rd May were agreed upon. These modifications consisted of the insertion of the words "average colour of the district" in the definition of the middle mark and, to meet the wishes of the sellers, a re-wording of the description of the mark X. The marks and standards then fixed and agreed to by the Sellers' Associations, were as follows:—

#### ***White Jute***

Top—Sound fibre, good colour of the district, cuttings not to exceed 25%.

Middle—Sound fibre, average medium colour of the district, cuttings not to exceed 35%.

Bottom—Straight morahed fibre, warranted not to contain more than 70% sacking weft.

X—Tangled or ravelled jute of whatever description.

#### ***Tossa Jute***

Top—Sound fibre, good colour of the district, cuttings not to exceed 15%.

Middle—Sound fibre, average medium colour of the district, cuttings not to exceed 25%.

Bottom—Straight morahed fibre, warranted not to contain more than 70% sacking weft.

X—Tangled or ravelled jute of whatever description.

It was made clear that these were marks and standards of which the Committee approved and to which all balers would pack in the season 1941-42; and it was again pointed out that it was on these marks and standards and in accordance with their respective guarantees and on no other, that mills were required to purchase the new crop for general mill purposes.

The opportunity was later taken to ask all members, who could do so, to purchase their requirements of new crop with discretion and not demand from sellers a large percentage of the bottom mark for early delivery. Purchases, if regulated as far as possible in accordance with the anticipated outturn of the crop, would do much to prevent a raising of standards within the season.

(b) *Maintenance of Standards.*—At the joint conference referred to in the preceding paragraph, considerable discussion took place on the means by which the marks and standards could be preserved unaltered throughout the year. Various suggestions were examined by the Committee in consultation with a Special Sub-Committee representative of all interests involved and it was eventually decided that:—

- (a) all contracts entered into with mills for the purchase of raw jute for ordinary mill purposes must be on the basis of the marks and standards laid down in Circular No. 162-D of the 28th June;
- (b) there should be no private settlements under the contracts, all claims howsoever arising to be referred to arbitration as provided in the contract;
- (c) a clause would be inserted in the Association's standard jute contract whereby when an arbitration award stipulated either and/or both (i) an allowance of 50% or more on the market difference between the grades or (ii) a moisture content in excess of the percentage permissible under the contract by 3% or more, the buyer (the mill) should have the following options:—
  - (i) accept the parcel with the allowance (s) awarded
  - (ii) reject the parcel and treat that portion of the contract as cancelled



- (iii) reject the parcel and claim a fresh tender within a specified period.

As regards item (c) (ii), provision was to be made for the recovery by the buyer against the seller of the market difference in the jute as contracted for and that offered in fulfilment of the contract and on which the arbitration award had been issued.

All these suggestions, after reference to members for comment, were put into effect as a substantial body of opinion favoured them.

The Committee took the following further action in pursuance of members' requests:—

- (a) addressed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce asking that (i) steps be taken to expedite arbitration proceedings and (ii) all members of the panel of arbitrators for raw jute cases should have their specific attention drawn to the fact that awards must be on the standards laid down and guaranteed in the contract;
- (b) entrusted to the Special Sub-Committee for the registration of loose jute sellers the task of investigating and reporting on all complaints that sellers were demanding too high a standard or that buyers were demanding deliveries of jute packed to a higher standard than laid down;
- (c) approached the representative Sellers Associations for their help in the preparation of samples of jute to be put on display in boxes for the guidance of all.

In connection with the preparation of sample boxes, it was indicated that Government were prepared to consider making a grant towards the cost of a scheme supported by the principal trade interests concerned, which appeared likely to secure better maintenance of reliable standards for jute; and it was agreed that the preparation of sample boxes should be handled by the Registration of Loose Jute Sellers Sub-Committee. Consideration of this question still proceeds.

**Register of loose jute sellers.**—Each year since 1938 the Association have published a register of loose jute sellers and marks for the guidance of the trade, and each year certain alterations and amendments have been made in the register in the light of the experience gained. This year, for the first time, no change was made in the method of compiling the register, the system followed being the same as that described in the Association's last annual report, and the only differences between the 1941-42 register and that issued in the previous year were a considerable increase in size, to permit of the inclusion of many new applications which were received, and the incorporation of the previous season's grading against each of the marks on which reports had been received. Marks were again graded in the same manner as in the 1940-41 season, and the grading list for the first quarter was published early in January, 1942. At the time when this report was written, the grading for the second quarter was almost completed, and it is the Sub-Committee's hope that, with the co-operation of the mills in submitting reports on marks as expeditiously as possible, the grading lists will in future be issued sooner after the expiry of the period to which they relate.

All the work of compiling the register and grading the marks was carried out under the direction of the Special Sub-Committee for the Registration of Loose Jute Sellers, which was enlarged during the course of the year to include representatives of the European Mofussil Jute Balers Association in addition to those of the Indian Jute Mills Association and the Calcutta and Bengal Jute Dealers Associations. The Sub-Committee was again under the able Chairmanship of Mr. R. L. Manners, and the Committee wish to express their thanks to him and to the other members of the Sub-Committee for the capable manner in which their tasks were discharged.

**Commercial and industrial standardisation.**—In May of the year under review a reference was made to the Committee of the Association by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a similar reference to the Association itself by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, on the above-mentioned subject. The Industries Conference of 1940 had suggested that a discussion of this subject was highly desirable and should be conducted

in close consultation with the industries concerned, who were asked therefore to submit their views.

The Committee replied to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and intimated that in their opinion no good purpose would be served at the present juncture, as far as the jute industry was concerned, by the establishment of any Government organisation for standardisation, and that they considered it was a problem for the industry itself to consider. In addition it was remarked that much study had already been given to this matter by the Association's Research Department but that a much longer time was required before any definite ideas could be formulated on a subject of such scope and importance.

The Chief Chemist had been asked to give his views on the matter, and it was suggested that the Committee should consider the whole problem in the light of his comments. He pointed out that the subject embraced standardisation of the raw material, standardisation in mill practice, and standardisation and classification of mill manufactures. The first item was already receiving the attention of the jute trade as a whole and was one in which the Government of Bengal was taking a particular interest, in view of the recommendations submitted by Professor Tood on the grading of jute.

The second item, standardisation in mill practice, was one which bulked largely in the programme of the Research Department and was being dealt with by them in all its aspects.

The third item, it was suggested, was of such importance and magnitude that it should begin to receive the attention of the Committee and of the Association now, particularly as one of the aims of the industry is to raise the level of its present manufactures and extend the uses of its products.

Finally, it was suggested that the whole question as far as the jute mill industry was concerned might be dealt with in the first place by the appointment of a Special Sub Committee to consider the matter at their leisure and report to the

General Committee. It was emphasised, however, that this work should not be attempted unless the Committee approved in principle of the ideal which visualised the establishment by the Association (or by some central authoritative body) of minimum standards in the production of gunnies.

The subject of commercial and industrial standardisation has also its bearings on India's export trade and as such came before the Export Advisory Council. The views of the Association were put before the Council by their representative, Mr. J. H. Burder, and the Commerce Member stated briefly that all interests were unanimously opposed to the establishment of a Government organisation for standardisation, and he therefore did not intend to pursue his request for proposals to be submitted on the establishment of a suitable organisation to inspect goods for export and mark those which passed standardisation tests.

At some later date when circumstances permit this subject will receive that careful study by the Association which its importance merits.

**The Standard Forms of Contract : Gummies.**—(1) *Interpretation and Rulings.* Several interpretations and rulings given by the Committee are here recorded :—

(a) *Payment of brokerage on goods cancelled by buyer.*—The Committee had been asked by a member for a ruling on the following :—

X a member mill sold to a buyer Z through a broker Y, 500 bales of Hessian Bags. Only 250 bales were delivered by the mill X and the balance was cancelled by the buyer Z owing to non-delivery of the goods on the due date. Has the broker a claim on the cancelled goods ?

The member had been informed that, so far as the Committee were aware, the recognised practice of mills had been to pay no brokerage in such circumstances.

(b) *Late shipment claims.*—As circular No. 13-D of the 16th January appeared to have been construed in a manner not intended by the Committee, a further circular No. 97-D of the 16th April, had been issued making it clear that the Association did not disapprove of the system whereby, in cases of late shipment by mills not covered by *force majeure*, mills had by mutual agreement reimbursed the buyers for any late shipment penalties in which they might be involved. It was pointed out, however, that Circular No. 13-D warned mills not to entertain such claims—

(a) until satisfied that the shipper had in fact paid a late shipment penalty to his buyer abroad ; and

(b) if presented as deductions from the amount due by the shipper to the mill under the contract, they must always be separately made.

(c) *Prompt shipment.*—An enquiry had been received from the Gunny Trades Association as to the limits within which “prompt shipment” goods could be shipped by a shipper.

In reply the Gunny Trades Association had been informed that whilst it was not the function of the Indian Jute Mills Association to give rulings on such matters, the Committee would suggest that shippers, when replying to an enquiry for prompt shipment should, in their own interests, specify a date.

(d) *Payment of brokerage on goods cancelled by seller.*—The following enquiry had been received from a member of the Association :—

“We shall thank you to let us know if we are to pay brokerage on a contract, the terms of which have not been duly fulfilled by buyers and as a consequence cancelled by us”.

In reply the member had been informed that in such circumstances brokerage was not payable.

**The Standard forms of contract : Jute.**—Several revisions in the standard raw jute contract form took place in the year under review. These were :—

(a) *Covering in*—As the Committee considered that safeguards should be provided in the Association's contract to protect the interests of mill buyers against the practice of "covering in", Solicitors were consulted on how best this might be carried out and their recommendation was that the clause which was put forward for adoption in Circular No. 135-D of the 17th July 1939 should be amended to read as follows :—

"No jute of marks other than those set out in the margin are tenderable under this contract and all jute so tendered must be baled by the registered balers of the mark at the relative premises as shown in the Indian Jute Mills Association's Register of Loose Jute marks. The contract has been accepted by the Buyers on the Sellers' representation and assurance that the jute as shown in the margin is under a mark entered in the said Register and that its baling and packing will be in strict accord with all particulars contained therein. Should tenders not be in accordance herewith buyers shall be entitled to reject the goods and sellers shall be liable for all losses sustained including the difference between contract and market prices."

That clause was substituted for the clause then in use, with effect from the 1st April 1941. It was also agreed that a suitable clause should be drafted for the same purpose to apply to pucca bale purchases and one was provided for this purpose by the Calcutta Jute Dealers Association and reads :—

"No jute of marks other than those set out in the margin is tenderable under this contract and all jute so tendered must be assorted and baled by the seller under this contract at his recognised press house. Should tenders not be in accordance herewith Buyers shall be entitled to reject the goods and sellers shall be liable for all losses sustained including the difference between contract and market prices".

( b ) *The Marks and Standards under the Contract and the need to refer all disputes to arbitration.*—Amendments were made in clauses 1 and 9 of the contract whereby the marks and standards for the 1941-42 season were made part of the contract and the recourse to arbitration made imperative in the settlement of disputes no matter how arising, all private settle-

ments being thus abolished. This was done by means of a slip attached to the contract reading in the following terms :—

As an addition to clause one of the contract :—

All references to standards and the guarantees of quality relative to these standards shall in this contract be governed by the following :—

		Cuttings not to exceed	
		WHITE JUTE	TOSSA JUTE
TOP	.. Sound fibre, good colour of the district ... ..	25%	15%
MIDDLE	... Sound fibre, average medium colour of the district ...	35%	25%
BOTTOM	... Straight morahed fibre, } warranted not to contain more than 70% sacking } weft ... ..	{ White & Tossa	
X	... Tangled or ravelled jute of whatever description...		

Clause 9 of the contract shall be treated as cancelled and the following deemed to be inserted in lieu thereof :—

#### Claims :—

(1) Claims in respect of short weight must be made not later than 5 working days after the arrival of the jute in Buyers' mill. On application from sellers provided it is received by the mill as soon as possible and in any event not later than the fourth working day after the date of issue of mill's short-weight advice, reweighment by licensed measurers will be allowed of 10% of each lot contained in each short-weight advice. On such reweighment should any bale of any such lot or lots show a discrepancy of eight pounds or more over or under the declared standard packing then and in such case 25% of such lot or lots will be reweighed : this, however, will not preclude the issue of a reweighment order on a basis higher than 25% if required by buyer or seller. The mill must issue a reweighment order not later than the fourth working day after receipt of the Sellers application and must hold the jute available until reweighment is effected. No reweighment will be permitted later than the third working day following the date of issue of the Mills reweighment order unless the Licensed Measurers Department certify that they are unable to carry out the weighment in the time allowed. Sellers shall pay the costs of the reweighments (including handling charges at the rate of one and half anna per bale) except when the Licensed Measurers weighment shows the shortage not less than 2% lower than that notified by Buyers in which case the costs are for Buyers account. Should overhead shortage of all deliveries exceed 2% of the total contract quantity the Buyers may charge the Sellers market difference for excess shortage over 2% such market difference to be calculated on the difference between the contract price ruling on the date of final weighment.

(2) Claims in respect of quality and/or excessive moisture must be made not later than 14 working days after the arrival of the jute in Buyers mill. All claims in relation to quality and/or condition (expressly including claims to reject) shall be settled in no other way than by a reference to arbitration as is in this contract provided for ; but none shall be entertained unless sub-mitted by the buyers to arbitration within three months of the date of delivery of the jute at the buyers mill.

(3) In any case where buyers make any claim in respect of quality and/or excessive moisture and the Award on the dispute being referred to arbitration as provided for in Clause 13 provides for an allowance of not less than 50% on the market difference between the grades of the goods contracted for and the goods supplied and/or finds a moisture content in the goods supplied in excess of the maximum percentage of moisture allowed under Clause 8 by not less than 3% and stipulates an allowance therefor, Buyers shall thereupon be entitled to exercise any of the following options :—

(a) Of accepting the goods with the allowance(s) awarded

(b) Of cancelling the contract in respect of the particular lot or lots of goods supplied and charging Sellers for the market difference on the goods as contracted for and those offered in fulfilment of the contract and on which the award has been made.

(c) Of rejecting the particular lot or lots of goods supplied and claiming a fresh tender in lieu thereof to be made within days from the date on which the option is declared.

(4) In any case where Buyers purport to reject the tender of jute for any reason and the dispute is referred to arbitration as provided for in Clause 13 the parties specifically agree that subject to the provisions of sub-clause (3) hereof any Award made may *inter alia* provide for the replacement of the tender whether or not the due date or any extended due date has expired and that such or any other Award made shall be final binding and conclusive on them.

( c ) *The Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Act.*—Reference has elsewhere been made to this measure and to the Committee's reasons for an amendment in the contract so that the tax would be on seller's account. The amendment was made in Clause 1 and reads as follows :

“The amount of tax payable under the Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Act, 1941 is to be on the sellers' account and to be deducted by the buyers from the price quoted, for payment to the Provincial Government in the prescribed manner unless at the time of concluding the contract the sellers satisfy the buyers



by the production of satisfactory evidence that tax is not payable on the sale".

There has been no time to give consideration to the general revision of the Jute Contract Form or to progress with the suggestion made by the Calcutta Jute Dealers Association and accepted by the Committee that there should be a standard form for pucca baled jute purchases by the mills.

#### **Coal supplies for jute mills: wagon shortage.—**

During the year under review the increased strain imposed upon the railways by the war led to a serious shortage in the supply of wagons to public consumers, and jute mills experienced great difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of coal. The Association drew the attention of the Coal Wagon Supply Committee to these difficulties in May, and asked that jute mills should again be placed on the priority list for the supply of coal wagons. Members were informed in Circular No. 126-D dated 24th May that the Coal Wagon Supply Committee required immediately full particulars of their stocks of coal, minimum monthly consumption and normal sources of supply, and these statistics were given. Early in July, however, the Coal Wagon Supply Committee announced that the wagon position had recently improved, and that it was therefore unnecessary to place jute mills on the priority list for the time being.

Despite this assurance, the mills continued to experience difficulty in obtaining coal, and the position became so serious that in September the Committee sent several telegrams to the Communications Department of the Government of India asking that immediate steps should be taken to place jute mills engaged in war work on the priority list; but the only result of these representations was that the number of days on which no allotments of wagons were made to priority consumers was increased from two to three a week, which did not greatly improve the position. The Committee had, however, enlisted the support of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, who collected particulars of the stocks of various groups of coal consumers, and submitted a representation to the Railway Board embodying two proposals

for improving the distribution of coal to consumers, the first that temporary assistance should be given to industrial concerns engaged in war work by the grant of Government priority, the other that a coal transportation officer should be appointed with sufficiently wide powers to ensure that the available coal wagons would be sent promptly where most needed.

In accordance with the first of these proposals, Government passed orders at the end of October that vital industrial concerns engaged on war work whose coal stocks had fallen below 20 days' consumption should be given temporary priority as "Government requirements" to maintain their stocks at not less than this amount; and arrangements were made for firms to apply for this assistance, when required, through the Department of Supply. The second proposal was embodied in a resolution passed at the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, and is still receiving Government's consideration.

Shortly before this report was written, statistics of coal stocks at the mills were again called for to see what effect the Government priority scheme had had. So far from revealing any improvement, the figures showed that the situation had deteriorated, and the Committee therefore addressed the Department of Supply giving them comparative statistics and suggesting that a more systematic procedure should be evolved to ensure the maintenance of a minimum stock of 20 days' supply of coal by all concerns engaged in war work. In particular, the Committee advocated the appointment of one central authority who would be responsible for the distribution of coal wagons to mills doing war work, and suggested that the existing procedure of submitting applications for priority to the Chief Mining Engineer of the Railway Board through the Controller of Supplies, Bengal, should be modified to permit of applications being sent direct.

**The Bengal Electricity Duty Act 1935.**—It was recorded in the Association's last annual report that, as a result of representations made by the Association, the Board of Revenue had agreed, in modification of the orders which they had previously passed, that units of energy consumed by lights in mill compounds would be exempt from duty under the

Bengal Electricity Duty Act unless they were in "premises used for residential or office purposes", which the Board agreed to interpret as meaning the actual residential and office buildings together with their compounds if these were enclosed and marked off from the mill compound proper.

During the year under review, several mills received notices from the Board of Revenue stating that all outside lights in cooly lines, except those situated within the mill compound, were liable to duty under the Act, and that all arrears of duty on such lights must be paid. As members are aware from Circular No. 282-D dated 5th November, the Committee protested to the Board against this decision, and pointed out that roads in jute mill lines were illuminated not only for the convenience of the workers but also to assist in the preservation of order. If mills were required to pay duty on these lights, it was probable that they would refuse to continue to provide an amenity the withdrawal of which might well result in an increase in riots and disturbances and an increase in epidemics through encouraging insanitary habits; and the view was expressed that it could not have been the intention of the Government of Bengal when the Bengal Electricity Duty Act was passed to impose a tax on units of energy consumed by lights in cooly lines, and thus discourage mills from improving the conditions under which the workers live.

Shortly before the end of the year, a reply was received from the Board of Revenue stating that the insistence upon duty in respect of outside lights in cooly lines outside the mill premises showed no departure from the accepted policy of Government at the time when the Act was introduced, and that the Board could not reconsider their previous orders.

At the time when this report was written the matter was receiving the Committee's attention.

**The Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Act, 1941.** - The progress of this measure through the Legislature was carefully watched by your Committee; for it is the first of any direct tax-

ation measures imposed by the Local Government on the industry's principal raw commodity. The objects and reasons of this measure were defined by the Government of Bengal at the time of introducing the legislation and are as follows:—

In order to finance the carrying out of measures for the stabilisation of jute prices, the improvement of marketing and generally to further the interests of the jute-growers of the province and of the industry as a whole, considerable sums of money are required which cannot be found out of ordinary revenues. The object of this Bill is to provide funds for these purposes and it is intended to earmark the proceeds of this tax for such expenditure.

It has been estimated that the amount required will not be less than Rs. 50 lakhs and this tax at the rate of annas two per maund is expected to yield a gross revenue of about that sum in a normal year.

In the course of its progress from the grower to the ultimate consumer in Bengal, jute passes through several hands and is the subject of a series of sales and purchases. It is not intended that every such sale and purchase should be taxed. The intention is that only one such sale or purchase shall be liable to the tax.

For practical reasons and for administrative convenience it is proposed to tax only what may be called the "final" transaction. That is to say, to impose and collect the tax at the stage where—

- (a) it is delivered to a jute-mill to be used in the manufacture of jute goods, or
- (b) it is delivered to the shipper in the form of "pucca" bales for supply to consumers overseas.

In such case it is more convenient to collect the tax from the final purchaser in Bengal, *i.e.*, the jute-mill owner or the shipper, and it is also easier to detect and prevent evasions of the tax at these two points. The Bill is accordingly designed to provide for this.

In its draft form the Bill was issued to members of the Association and comments were received from only four but a detailed criticism of it was made by the Committee confined, however to matters of detail; for the industry was not opposed to the principle of the measure and had no objection to the amount of the tax. The view was strongly expressed that operations on the "futures" market should be taxed but as it was appreciated that Government might be

unable to devise machinery to this end having regard to the manner in which "futures" market operations are conducted, the Committee advocated the closure of the markets in question. They further supported the idea that some clear appreciation should be obtained from Government of the nature of the schemes they had in mind and in the furtherance of which this measure would be the means of their obtaining the necessary finance; and they asked also that some definite assurance be obtained that no speculative transactions would be entered into by Government in the purchase of jute. These points were clearly expressed on the floor of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Bengal in reply asked that time should be given them to make a complete plan in the interests of the cultivators. They clearly stated that the proceeds of the tax measure would not be used for speculative transactions. As regards "futures" market operations, they pointed out that Professor Todd was on his way out to India and that they preferred deferring further action until the benefits of his views had been received.

The taxation measure imposes a charge of -/2/- per maund on every bale of raw jute purchased by the mills whether it is Bengal jute or jute of any other province. As regards the shippers of jute the tax is paid in respect of all quantities of jute they have purchased and despatched outside Bengal and the responsibility for the payment of the tax rests upon the shipper who for the purposes of the Act has been defined as:—

**"Shipper of Jute"** means any persons who purchases raw jute and supplies it himself or by an agent to any person including himself outside Bengal."

The rules under this Act were published in draft form for detailed comment towards the end of November and were re-printed in their final form in the Calcutta Gazette of the 29th January, 1941. Copies of the taxation measure and of the rules have been given to all members and it only remains to be noted that the Act came into force with effect from the 1st January, 1942.

With the passing and publication of the Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Act, the Committee decided to amend the standard form of contract for raw jute and jute cuttings by the insertion of a clause which made the amount of the tax a charge on sellers'

account. The decision of the Committee to do this has been adversely criticised and has been defended by them on the following main grounds :—

- (a) Great play was made by selling interests of an assurance said to be given by the Government of Bengal that the tax would not be in any part placed as a burden on the ryot. No such assurance as that referred to was given: it was pointed out by Government and clearly recognised by the Indian Jute Mills Association Committee because of the trade's ramifications and the many classes of dealers engaged in bridging the gap between producer and consumer, that it would be impossible for the grower alone to pay the tax. Therefore, dependent upon supply and demand, the tax would in its effects be shared by all parties engaged in the industry.
- (b) It is a principle observed in other forms of taxation designed to benefit a particular class that there should be no escape by them from some of the burden of the tax; and there is no sound reason why in respect of consumption in Bengal, the mills alone should bear the full burden of the tax.
- (c) Certain Sellers Associations have claimed that if the mills do not pay the tax, the balers, shippers etc., of jute will require to make a corresponding adjustment in their price when dealing with the bepari who in his turn will make the same adjustment when purchasing from the ryot; and so they contend the grower will pay the tax. Were they (sellers) therefore to follow a similar policy in respect of that portion of the crop—exports and consumption by mills in India outside Bengal—for which they have a direct responsibility to pay tax to Government, then by the mills in Bengal themselves paying the tax, it would be the mills' sellers who would alone benefit as no different policy in their purchases could be followed and adjustments in the manner shown would presumably already have been made by them.

- (d) By making arrangements whereby the tax will be deducted from the seller's price, does not mean that the liability will be placed on the grower or on the baler or that the mills will escape liability. Sellers are at liberty to increase their rates to include the tax and by re-adjustments within the trade itself, it will become wholly or partially dependent upon market conditions, incorporated in the price which the buyers pay.

It is not proposed to reproduce either the Act or the rules in the appendices to this report but for members' convenience it may be stated that the Act formed an attachment to Circular No. 312D. of the 29th November, 1941, and the rules were incorporated in Circular No. 41-D of the 30th January, 1942.

**Bengal Jute Regulation Act 1940 :** (a) *Prescribed area for 1942.*—On the 1st December 1941 a notification was issued by the Government of Bengal reading as follows :—

In exercise of the power conferred by section 9 of the Bengal Jute Regulation Act 1910 (Bengal Act V of 1910), the Governor, after considering the advice tendered by the Advisory Board constituted under Section 8 of the aforesaid Act, is pleased to declare that the total area of land on which jute may be grown in the whole of Bengal in the year 1942 shall bear to the total recorded area of land on which jute was grown in the whole of Bengal in the year 1940 the proportion of 10 to 16.

This represents almost double the acreage authorised in the season 1941-42.

(b) *Collection of returns of stocks of jute and jute products.*—In accordance with the procedure agreed to between the Special Officer (Jute) and the Association, member mills were called upon to submit on the prescribed form, their returns of stocks of jute held by them on the 30th June 1941. A consolidated statement showing the amount of raw jute held by mills was prepared by the Association and forwarded to the Special Officer (Jute) together with a statement showing the total stocks of manufactured goods held by mills on the 30th June 1941.

**Bengal Municipal Act : taxes on trades, professions and callings.**—It had been brought to the notice of the Asso-

ciation that consequent upon an amendment to the above-mentioned Act, referred to in Circular No. 2-D of the 2nd January, certain municipalities were demanding from mills payment of the tax on the scale laid down in Schedule IV. Having regard to the opinion previously expressed by solicitors, a further circular No. 77-D dated 27th March had been issued requesting members who had received demands from municipalities for the payment of tax, to refuse payment on the grounds that they were not exercising within the municipality any profession, trade or calling for profit. This however does not include the mills situated in Howrah as they come within the purview of the Calcutta Municipal Act, and consequently have to pay to the Howrah municipality (a) a trades and callings tax and (b) a storing tax. In addition they are called upon to pay a license fee to the Calcutta Corporation as provided under Section 175 of the Calcutta Municipal Act.

**The Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act.**—Towards the end of 1940 a Bill was introduced into the Bengal Legislature to provide for the registration of all dealers in the province and for the payment by them of a tax at the rate of one quarter of an anna in the rupee on their taxable turnover. The taxable turnover was defined as the dealer's gross turnover after deduction of the turnover on various sales which were exempted from the tax, and amongst these were sales of raw jute, and sales to a registered dealer of goods for use by him in the manufacture of any goods for sale or in the execution of any contract. While the Bill was still being considered by the legislature, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, at the instance of the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, whose appointment was provided for in the Bill, took steps to compile a list of articles which various industrial organisations purchase for use in the manufacture of goods for sale, and a list of such mill stores was prepared by the Association with the assistance of Messrs. Macgregor & Balfour, and forwarded to the Chamber for incorporation in the general list, common to all industries, which they were endeavouring to compile.

The Bill was passed by the Bengal Legislature in the middle of 1941 and received the assent of the Governor General on the 1st July, from which date the Governor of Bengal



directed that the Act should come into force. Copies of the Act and the Rules framed under it were published for the information of members with Circular No. 223-D dated 2nd September, in which a general outline of the way in which jute mills would be affected by the Act was given.

**Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941 : Thefts in jute mill areas.**—A letter dated 3rd June was addressed to the Association by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce enclosing a copy of the above mentioned Bill which it was the intention of Government to introduce in the Assembly, refer to a Select Committee and pass during the Monsoon Session. The Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill read as follows:—

*Statement of Objects and Reasons*—Thefts of articles from railway workshops and stores and from mill and industrial areas are of frequent occurrence and it is always difficult to bring the offenders to book owing to the difficulty of satisfactory identification of the articles as required by law. The question of dealing with the criminals has been examined by the Railway Administrations as also by the Blandy-Gordon Committee and by Government and the view has been held that the problem can be effectively met only by special legislation on the lines of sections 32 and 54A of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, which while applying to the whole of Bengal should, at the outset, be extended to such individual areas as Government may, from time to time, notify to that effect. For the present, it is proposed to make the Bill applicable to the Railway workshops at Kharagpur, Kanchrapara and Chittagong.

The Association approve of the provisions of the Bill in principle, and as regards the areas to which it should be made applicable they suggested the whole of the industrial area in Bengal in which mills are to be found.

Members were notified of thefts in the jute mill areas by Circular No. 218-D, and asked to co-operate in reducing the number of thefts by tightening up their precautionary measures, and in particular, by marking all movable articles with the name of the mill. They were also asked to report all thefts of mill stores to the Association so that the Committee could obtain an idea of their extent and consider whether it was necessary for the Association to take any steps to prevent them.

**Export Advisory Council.**—The setting up of this Council by the Government of India was noted in the Annual General Report for 1940, and it was recorded that the functions of the Council were largely to act as a channel of communication between the Government of India and the exporting interests of the country so as to facilitate the discussion of difficulties arising out of the war and the legislation and regulations consequent thereon, as well as to make recommendations with regard to the exports of the country and the best means of expanding and promoting these.

During the year a number of subjects in which much difficulty is experienced owing to war restrictions and regulations were raised by the industry's representative, Mr. J. H. Burder, and means taken to have some of the difficulties removed in so far as that is possible in these times.

Matters under discussion included cable delays, freight shortage and exports licenses for jute goods to the Far East but the most important question was that of industrial standardisation, on which comment is made elsewhere in this report.

**Indian Customs Tariff: definition of jute cuttings.**—

Early in March the Collector of Customs asked the Association for an authoritative definition of jute cuttings for the purpose of assessments to export duty under the Indian Customs Tariff. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, who had also been approached, arranged a meeting of the various interests concerned, and on the basis of the views which were subsequently conveyed to the Collector, the following Customs House ruling was published on the 11th December :—

“ For the purpose of item No. 1(1) of the second Schedule—Export Tariff of the Indian Customs Tariff, jute cuttings are defined as that portion of the jute which is cut from the root or crop ends and which still has bark adhering to it or is otherwise defective. Cuttings vary considerably in length and may be divided under four headings :—

- (a) *Snippets*—which are about 4" long or less
- (b) *Mixings*—from 6" to 8" long
- (c) *Naraingunge cuttings*—from 8" to 12" long
- (d) *Superior Naraingunge cuttings*—up to 30" long.

Drop end cuttings exceeding 12" and root end cuttings exceeding 30" in length will be assessed as "all other descriptions of raw jute" under item 1(2)."

**American consular invoices.**—At the request of the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association, whose members required some authority for making certain declarations necessary under paragraph 1008 of the U. S. Tariff Act, the Committee recommended that mills should state in their specifications whether goods destined for the U. S. A. or Porto Rico were bleached, printed, stencilled, painted, dyed, coloured or rendered non-inflammable. In the case of goods containing coloured stripes in the woven fabric or a single coloured thread in the selvedge for identification purposes, it was recommended, after consultation with the American Consul:—

(a) That for ordinary hessians, such as 50" 7½/40 or 50" 8/40 the use of a coloured distinguishing thread would not affect the wording of the guarantee except in theory, and that the use of these threads can be disregarded in practice. It was therefore proposed that the mills be recommended to adopt the proposal of adding to their specifications of hessian the following clause:—

"It is hereby declared that these goods are neither bleached, printed, stencilled, painted, dyed, coloured nor rendered non-inflammable".

(b) That for sacking the following clause added to the specifications will suffice:—

"It is hereby declared that these goods are neither bleached printed, stencilled, painted, coloured nor rendered non-inflammable. The bulk of the fabric is manufactured from jute yarn in its natural state, there being in the full width only.....dyed threads forming.....".

**Delay in the production of goods against delivery orders.**—In Circular No. 209-D dated 20th August the Committee reproduced a report received from the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association of a case in which a mill had failed to produce goods against delivery orders within a reasonable time. The shippers had sent the mill shipping instructions in respect of 50 bales early in July, but were unable to obtain any definite information about them for a fortnight, when the mill announced that 16 bales were ready, 9 might be ready on the

following day, but that the remaining 25 could not be ready for the ship by which they were to be despatched.

The Committee explained that they were attempting to standardise the procedure in dealing with delivery orders and that what constituted a reasonable time for mills to deliver against shipping instructions would be stipulated later; but in the meantime they expressed the view that in the case mentioned the delay on the part of the mill was most unreasonable and reprehensible; and they impressed upon all members the imperative need, in view of the existing shipping difficulties, for the fullest co-operation between mills and shippers to avoid similar difficulties and inconvenience in the future.

**Demurrage on railway wagons: treatment of Sundays as 'Dies non'.--**In February, the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta and the East Indian, Bengal Nagpur and Eastern Bengal Railways issued a joint notification withdrawing, with effect from the 1st March, 1941, the privilege of treating Sundays as 'dies non' for the purpose of demurrage on wagons to be unloaded by the consignee, at certain stations enumerated in the notification. This measure was the result of the present war conditions resulting in a shortage of stock. The Committee regarded the early release of wagons as essential in the interests of the country's war effort and they agreed that no attempt should be made to have the notification rescinded.

Recognising the difficulties that employers were bound to encounter under the Factories Act as a result of this notification, a representation was made by the Chamber to the Chief Inspector of Factories, suggesting that rule 7 of the Bengal Factories (Exemption) Rules might be extended in its reference to receiving and despatching workers by the grant of exemption from sections 34 and 35 of the Act, which refer respectively to weekly hours and weekly holidays, on condition that none of these workers would be employed:—

- (a) for a greater number of hours on the average over 4 weeks than 54 per week; and
- (b) for a longer period than 10 successive days without a day's holiday

Further to this another letter was addressed to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, pointing out that if an arrangement could be made whereby exemption from section 35(1)(b) would be secured for the duration of the war in respect of all adult male workers employed on the loading or unloading of wagons it would meet with the approval of the Chamber. This was sent with a request to place these ideas before the Local Government for their approval.

Having had exemption from section 35 *in toto*, the industry generally should meantime experience no difficulty in Sunday unloading. In this connection, it is hoped that all will do their utmost to support this measure.

**Export of Jute Goods to the United Kingdom.**—The issue is recorded of Circular No. 108 dated 26th April reproducing for necessary action a telegram of 5th April addressed by the Secretary of State for India to the Commerce Department of the Government of India, in which it was stated that to conserve shipping space it had been agreed that all jute cloth, sacks and bags hitherto made of 8 oz. material for Great Britain should in future be made of 7½ oz. material.

**Fires in jute mill godowns.**—There was an appreciable decrease in the number of fires in jute mill godowns during the year, the actual number of outbreaks of fire being 8 as compared with 15 in the year 1940. This reduction in the number of outbreaks of fire is perhaps attributable to the extra precautions taken by members on the suggestion of the Committee and if member mills continue to carry out the instructions given to them from time to time, there is little doubt that there will be a further reduction in the number of fires of "unknown" origin.

**Delays in the unloading of gunnies from River Transport Companies' boats.**—The report for 1940 contained a reference to the difficulties which were being experienced by the boating companies in the port as a result of delays in the unloading of gunnies from their boats; and an account was given of discussions which took place between representatives of the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association, the Calcutta Liners Conference, and this Association to see whether any steps could be taken to obviate these delays.

During the course of the year under review the difficulties of the boating companies were aggravated by the introduction of more stringent bye-laws necessitated by the construction of the new Howrah bridge; and at the request of the Calcutta River Transport Association the Committee brought the matter to the notice of all members and requested them to assist the boating companies by issuing their shipping orders as early as possible.

#### **Gunny Traffic at the Shalimar Jetties, B. N. R.—**

Because of the increased trade but principally because of the restrictions on railway bookings from the Shalimar Jetties, B. N. R., a considerable number of boats with gunnies were lying at these jetties in December, the total holding being enough to exhaust the wagon supply under restricted conditions for some time thereafter. Pending that survey of the position to be undertaken to see in what way more regular conditions could be introduced into the traffic, an entire prohibition was placed by the B. N. R. on the acceptances of gunny at the Shalimar Jetties in the first instance for 20 days from the 31st December, 1941, and thereafter extended to the 26th January, 1942.

Discussions between representatives of the Railway, the Gunny Trades Association and this Association took place as a result of which a scheme was devised and placed into operation from the 26th January 1942 under which it is hoped the traffic will be regulated in some systematic manner and with regard paid to the restrictive conditions which might be imposed on railway bookings. The scheme was given in detail in Circular No. 30-D of the 26th January, 1942, and members were at the same time told of the strong representations which had been made by the Association for the greatest number of wagons possible to be devoted to the gunny traffic with up-country stations as in existing circumstances it was imperative that there should be as free a movement of food-stuffs as possible; and supplies of gunnies were essential to that being witnessed.

Whilst at first it was visualised that trade at the jetties in December would not be cleared for some two or three months, the Association are glad to report that with the full co-operation of the Railway Authorities in obtaining additional wagons, the prohibition of bookings *via* Waltair was removed on the 26th

January, 1942, and all existing traffic *via* Nagpur had been cleared by the 5th February, 1942.

**Mill jetties: mills' liability for dredging.**—In 1940 on the application of two members, the Association approached the Department of Revenue, asking them to withdraw the clause from mill jetty agreements which would prohibit mills from extending jetties in the event of silting taking place unless they undertook to make navigation possible by dredging the bed of the river at their own expense.

As their reply to the representation made by the Association was considered unsatisfactory, the Board of Revenue, Bengal, was approached through the Bengal Chamber to reconsider their decision.

The Board was unable to subscribe to the view expressed in the Chamber representation in so far as they suggested that an individual mill should be allowed to extend its jetty because it contributes to river borne traffic (the effect of the extension on the interests on others, not arising for consideration in this connection) and in so far as they relate to the function of a Port Authority in such a matter.

A Port Authority could undertake to dredge a navigable channel, but this might or might not assist individual mills. If further dredging was required to maintain sufficient depth of water alongside privately owned jetties, such dredging would certainly have to be paid for by the owners concerned and not out of the revenues of the Port Authority.

This reply was circulated to all the members under Circular No. 24-D dated 19th January 1942 as the Committee felt that there was nothing to be gained by continuing this correspondence.

**The Jute Carriage Agreement : bale measurements.**—

Under the terms of the Jute Carriage Agreement which was renewed with the Steamer Companies in July 1940, the standard measurement for a four maund bale of jute is 18 cu. ft. During the course of the year complaints were received that bales were not being packed to this measurement, and enquiries made by the Factory Inspection Department into accidents at the mills in the handling of jute bales resulted in most adverse comments on the size of the bales and the manner in which they were bound;

so much so that the Department gave notice that, unless there was an immediate improvement, stringent regulations would be enforced in regard to loads on trolleys, methods of slinging and restrictions in the size and height of jute piles when stored in godowns.

As the Committee shared the view of the Factory Inspectorate that the existing state of affairs could not be allowed to continue, they addressed the Sellers' Associations asking them to impress upon their members the importance of packing four maund bales down to the standard measurement of 18 cu. ft. and of making certain that the ropes used were of sufficient strength to bind the bales securely. A letter was also addressed to the Inland Steamer Companies requesting their co-operation. In these letters the Committee mentioned the possibility of their having to reject bales which did not conform to the standard measurement, in order to safeguard themselves against the introduction of the stringent restrictions which would otherwise be imposed by the Factory Inspector.

**Licensed Measurers Department, Bengal Chamber of Commerce: Departmental charges for weighing and measuring.**—In February a circular was issued to all members publishing a copy of a letter received from the Licensed Measurers Department of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce regarding the imposition with effect from the 1st February 1941 of a surtax of 15% on the Departmental measuring and weighing charges. The letter mentioned that the imposition of the surtax had been rendered necessary by the successive deficits incurred by the Department since last June, due to restricted shipping and the loss of continental markets caused by the war.

A second circular No. 164-D dated 30th June 1941 was sent to the members informing them that the existing surtax of 15% would be raised to 30% on all work undertaken by the Department on and from the 1st July 1941. This increase had been found necessary owing to the continued and increasing shrinkage in the revenue and consequently in the reserves of the Department.

**Measurement of Bags.**—As several enquiries had been received as to whether any allowance should be made in measuring bags for sewing and hemming, circular No. 93-D



of the 9th April was issued advising members that the correct procedure was to include all seams in the measurement of bags.

**Tariff classification of jute manufactures.**—As in past years the Collector of Customs consulted the Committee about the proper classification of jute manufactures for the purpose of assessment to export duty, and during the earlier part of the year the Committee classified the fabrics submitted and informed members of their decisions by means of references in the proceedings of meetings. Subsequently, however, the number of references increased to such an extent, and the difficulties experienced in determining the correct classification of border-line fabrics were such, that the Committee considered the possibility of a change in the export tariff as a solution of the problem. They were led to this view by the impossibility of arriving at any simple and comprehensive criterion for classifying jute manufactures as either hessian or sacking, which is necessary for the application of the existing tariff. The construction of the fabric, the quality of the yarn, and the quality of the finished article were each suggested as a possible basis for classification, but the Committee were unable to accept any of them as completely satisfactory; and in the absence of a definite criterion, it was inevitable that differences of opinion should arise. The Committee therefore considered whether it would be preferable to have an *ad valorem* duty, calculated on the invoice value of the material, or a number of fixed rates of duty for fabrics whose invoice value fell within various specified limits, or a flat rate of duty for all jute manufactures. Any of these alternatives would obviate the need for classifying fabrics as hessian or sacking, but at the time of writing this report no definite decision has been reached. It is hoped, however, that a meeting will be arranged in the near future between representatives of the Association and the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to give further consideration to the problem and attempt to arrive at a satisfactory solution of it.

**“Bemis Grouping”: date on which changes in grouping become effective.**—During the year an enquiry was received by the Committee when changes in mill grouping, as notified by Bemis Bros., should take effect. The Committee replied that a change in mill grouping becomes effective on the date of the issue of the circular by the Association announcing the change.

**Howrah Coal Depots : license fees.**—A letter had been received from a member with reference to the license fee charged by the Howrah Municipality for a coal depot they had rented at Howrah for the stocking of coal intended for consumption in the mill. The fee charged by the Municipality was Rs. 250 and the member expressed the opinion that there was no justification for such a heavy fee being levied having regard to the fact that they carried on no business from the depot.

The position is that Section 386 of the Calcutta Municipal Act provides that before any premises may be used for the storage of coal, and various other commodities, a license must be obtained and for such license the Municipality is empowered to charge a fee not exceeding Rs. 500. The usual fee charged by the Municipality for the coal depot is Rs. 250 and is payable irrespective of whether any business is carried on or not. Companies carrying on business at the depots have, in addition, to pay a profession tax which is based on the paid up capital of the Company.

**Telephone communication between Calcutta and Barrackpore.**—In the course of the year, as a result of repeated complaints, the Association were addressed by the Bengal Chamber to get the views of members with the purpose of ascertaining whether any improvements had been effected in the telephone communication between Calcutta and Barrackpore, since the last representation addressed to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, a year ago. From the experience of members of the Association it would seem that there has been no improvement in the service, and the Committee urged the Chamber again to take the matter up, as not only is great delay experienced in getting calls, but when the connection has been established, reception is invariably very poor and indistinct due to line defects, constant interruptions by the operators, and the short circuited talk of other users.

**Anti-malarial activities and the standardisation of health returns.**—On the recommendation of Sir Malcolm Watson, Director of the Ross Institute of Hygiene, London, Dr. Ramsay was granted four months' leave which he was to spend visiting the Institutes in Kenya, Tanganyika and Rhodesia in Africa, with the purpose of acquiring first hand information.

Dr. Ramsay paid a visit during the course of the year to the Alkali and Chemical Corporation of India Ltd. as well as to the Tata Iron and Co., Ltd. In both cases his visit was in connection with anti-malaria measures to be undertaken there. Nothing definite has yet been arrived at in regard to amalgamating the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, and the Ross Institute of South India. Recommended by Dr. Ramsay, the Committee of Control on which the Association are represented decided:—

(a) to make provision for the training and keeping in reserve of a cadre of two or three malaria surveyors to meet local demands in Southern India and for this purpose the Ross Institute, Research Centre at Valparai was selected.

(b) that in view of the contribution made by the Nizam of Hyderabad to the Ross Institute in London permission was given for the training, free of cost of three malaria surveyors selected by the Director of Public Health, Hyderabad State.

As regards the adoption of the standardised health returns by jute mills, it was decided as a result of replies received, to await the experience of the tea industry. Dr. Ramsay, however, had already been in touch with Dr. F. J. Copeland, one of the mill medical officers and would continue to do what he could to influence the adoption of standardised health returns.

The Committee of Control read with interest and appreciated the tribute paid to Dr. Ramsay's work in India by Sir Malcolm Watson, consequent on his three months' tour of India during the cold weather of 1939-40. They conveyed to Dr. Ramsay their own thanks for his valuable work and achievements in the field of malaria control throughout India.

**The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine: the Association's contribution.**—As a result of the appeal made to members in Circular No. 182-D of the 17th October 1940, it was agreed to maintain the Association's annual contribution of Rs. 25,000 to the Endowment Fund of the School of Tropical Medicine for a further period of three years as from the 1st January 1941.

The assessment in respect of the Association's contribution for the year 1941 on those members who had agreed to pay, was at the rate of 7 annas per loom, as against the previous years when it was  $6\frac{3}{4}$  annas per loom.

**Bengal Legislative Assembly :** (a) *The Indian Jute Mills Association Constituency*.—Mr. W. A. M. Walker of Messrs. Barry & Co., and Mr. I. G. Kennedy of Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co. continued throughout the year to represent the Association in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Association are indebted to these gentlemen for the valuable services rendered to the industry.

(b) *Revision of the electoral roll of the Indian Jute Mills Association constituency*.—A revision of the roll was made during the year and all members were informed by Circular No. 39-D dated 29th January 1941 that a copy of the final electoral roll had been posted on the notice board of the Royal Exchange where it was open for the inspection of all members.

**Indian Central Jute Committee**.—Mr. W. A. M. Walker continued to represent the Association on the Indian Central Jute Committee and to act as its Vice-President. The Association's other representative on the Committee is Mr. I. G. Kennedy of Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.

In addition, the following members of this Association's Committees, along with the Chief Chemist, were co-opted to serve on the Special ad-hoc Sub-Committee appointed by the Indian Central Jute Committee to consider the question of machinery, buildings etc., for the proposed extension of the activities of the Technological Research Laboratories:—

MR. J. R. WALKER

„ G. M. GARRIE

„ J. A. MURRAY

Throughout the year members of the Association have been kept in close touch with the activities of the Indian Central Jute

Committee by the distribution of the monthly bulletin and other publications.

**Glossary of jute trade terms.**—In the full annual report of the Association there appears, as an appendix, a glossary of jute trade terms. As it is some years since the glossary was first drawn up, a Sub-Committee was appointed during the year to take in hand its revision and the glossary in its revised form will be found among the appendices to this report.

**Local consumption of raw jute.**—In July the Committee obtained from the mills in the membership of the Association the usual returns showing their consumption, etc., of raw jute including cuttings. The total figures of all mills showed (a) that the actual consumption from 1st July 1940 to 30th June 1941 was 2,69,20,987 maunds; and (b) that the total quantity of jute purchased "ex" crop of season 1940-41 was 3,82,40,563 maunds.

**The mills' stocks of raw jute.**—Information supplied by members in response to Circular No. 151-D of the 18th June 1941 showed that the stocks of raw jute in the hands of mills in the membership of the Association at the 30th June 1941 amounted to 1,10,15,127 maunds. This information was passed on to the Indian Central Jute Committee who later reported that the gross total stocks of raw jute held by jute mills in India, on the 30th June 1941—in lacs of bales of 400 lbs. each—were as follows:—

			Lacs of bales.
Stocks of mills reporting	...		45.96
Stocks of mills not reporting			
(estimated)	...	...	0.57
Total as at 30th June 1941	...		46.53
Total as at 30th June 1940	...		19.90

**Monthly statistics : stocks and production.**—Continuing their usual practice the Committee have, with the co-operation of members, compiled and issued to the trade, statistics relating to (a) the total monthly production of manufactured goods, and (b) stocks of manufactured goods as on the last day of each month. The Gagalbhai Mills have, throughout the year, also been good enough to supply their monthly stock and production figures for incorporation in the Association's statistics. The Committee have also received by cable each month, from the Boston Office of the Bemis Bro. Bag Co., by favour of the Angus Co., Ltd., Calcutta, advices regarding hessian stocks and consumption in the United States, excluding the Pacific Coast. The respective figures for the year 1941 are as follows:—

(a) *Reported production of manufactured goods by the mills in the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association and also by the Gagalbhai Mills:—*

1941	All manufactures.	Hessian (both as bags and cloth).	Sacking (both as bags and cloth).	Canvas.
	Tons.	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.
January ...	73,030	12,40,94,151	8,55 91,768	13,93,326
February	84,049	14,42,52,785	9,53,74,048	19,63,279
March ...	69,612	12,08,38,040	8,02,86,578	21,52,120
April ...	94,275	17,07,46,370	10,72,53,083	22,45,625
May ...	93,830	17,45,40,620	10,63,92,803	18,41,853
June ...	88,446	16,40,90,972	10,10,61,426	12,71,252
July ...	98,384	17,37,92,234	11,31,11,721	11,60,054
August ...	90,024	16,33,98,502	10,38,17,480	10,51,930
September	95,578	17,23,14,204	11,08,86,006	12,68,560
October ...	1,00,927	18,59,58,493	11,40,46,768	13,22,479
November	1,08,975	20,93,57,485	12,03,46,574	14,29,722
December	1,15,770	22,48,00,721	13,02,27,406	13,63,218
Total ...	11,13,500	2,02,81,84,577	1,26,83,95,661	1,84,69,427

(b) *Total reported stocks of manufactured goods held by the mills in the membership of the Association and also by the Gagalbhai Mills, as on the last day of each month.*

1941.	Stock of Hessain Cloth and Bags. (yards)		Stock of Sacking Cloth and Bags. (yards)
	Gross stocks.	Stock of Sand-bags held on Govt. account.	
January ...	21,69,36,628	6,85,13,561	14,51,49,424
February ...	24,68,18,097	4,36,07,681	14,22,83,137
March ...	24,78,56,827	5,11,00,930	12,54,84,351
April ...	25,23,49,218	5,94,54,641	16,20,39,767
May ...	26,28,63,980	6,27,18,610	16,02,31,643
June ...	26,69,34,155	7,31,02,963	17,67,79,366
July ...	28,15,57,967	7,59,95,380	17,99,11,935
August ...	28,74,24,029	8,01,44,288	17,39,94,969
September ...	25,29,52,542	9,52,29,828	17,19,03,193
October ...	25,38,05,400	11,49,58,909	17,73,01,860
November ...	25,91,61,867	11,91,74,510	16,30,82,733
December ...	34,97,32,788	10,70,65,574	18,43,78,555

(c) *United States of America hessian stocks and consumption excluding Pacific Coast.*

1941	Stock at end of month.		Consumption for the month
	Spot	Afloat	
	Million yards.	Million yards	Million yard
January ...	120	149	57
February ...	132	83	60
March ...	123	64	67
April ...	105	84	55
May ...	98	116	47
June ...	107	114	49
July ...	121	104	64
August ...	126	72	60
September ...	110	103	63
October ...	92	150	63
November ...	101	164	53
December ..	145	68	75

**Statistics in connection with the working of the mills.**—The usual statement has been prepared by the Committee from information supplied by members regarding the undernoted points. The following figures, have been abstracted from the statement :—

(a) Total number of working looms in the					
Mills in January	...	...	1942	65,386	
Do.	do.	do.	1941	65,386	
Do.	do.	do.	1940	65,343	
(b) Total number of spindles at work in					
January	...	...	1942	1,286,204	
Do.	do.	do.	1941	1,287,371	
Do.	do.	do.	1940	1,200,043	
(c) Average daily number of hands employed during					
	...	...	1941	2,89,401	
Do.	do.	do.	1940	2,86,441	
(d) Total quantity of coal consumed in					
	...	...	1941	685,524 Tons.	
Do.	do.	do.	1940	695,952	„
Do.	do.	do.	1939	703,800	„
(e) Average daily consumption of coal in					
	...	...	1941	2,653 Tons.	
Do.	do.	do.	1940	2,616	„
Do.	do.	do.	1939	2,789	„

**Finance.**—Copies of the audited accounts of the Association, of the labour officer scheme, and of the working agreement and special account are attached.

Comment on the position will be made at the Annual General Meeting of members when the rate of subscription for 1942 will be the subject of consideration.

W. A. M. WALKER, *Chairman*  
 J. H. BURDER, *Vice-Chairman*  
 A. P. BENTHALL  
 H. D. CUMBERBATCH  
 G. M. GARRIE  
 K. P. GOENKA  
 K. D. JALAN  
 S. R. KANORIA  
 J. R. WALKER

J. J. B. SUTHERLAND,  
*Deputy Secretary.*

ROYAL EXCHANGE,  
 CALCUTTA, 13th February 1942.





RESEARCH DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE.

REPORT FOR 1911.

To the Chairman and members of the General Committee,  
Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta.

GENTLEMEN,

We beg to submit this our report on the activities of the Research Department for the year 1911 and the work which was entrusted to us.

**General.**—The report of last year stated that 1910 had been a year of exceptional activity, and that both the Calcutta and London Departments had had to handle much extra work of urgent importance as a result of war-time conditions: a further result was a partial dislocation of the routine of both Departments, and re-organisation to meet the altered conditions brought about by a state of war.

Similar conditions have prevailed throughout 1911 as in 1910, and in presenting this report it may be said that the year under review has been one of even greater activity, with still heavier and more pressing demands upon both departments. In spite of urgent pressure of work, however, the London Department has been able to issue with regularity Jute Abstracts every month, and in the Calcutta laboratories continued progress has been made with many problems of importance, which in certain cases have reached the final stages.

So far as the London Department is concerned the Committee would note with appreciation that Dr. Barker has maintained and increased his contacts with Government Departments, and that his services have been constantly in demand by the Defence Departments, Ministry of Supply, Air Ministry and others. As a member of the Sandbag Advisory Committee, and in collaboration with the Woolwich Arsenal Textile Department, he has been instrumental in arranging the processing of millions of sandbags for the use of the Home Government. Dr. Barker continued his contacts with the Cable Makers' Association of Great Britain and the Cement Makers' Federation, of which further mention is made elsewhere in the report: at the same

time his research work into the possibilities of the jute fabrics and the extension of its uses continued, and from these researches it is hoped that much profit will accrue to the Association when the war is over.

It is with regret, however, that the Committee have to announce Dr. Barker's serious illness in the month of October, the result undoubtedly of overwork and of strain. A very recent letter announces his recovery and his return to duty, but under medical advice he must take life at a somewhat slower pace.

The Committee record their deep appreciation of the work of the Advisory Committee, and of the services they have rendered to Dr. Barker's scientific interests on the one hand and the requirements of the manufacturers on the other. Their special thanks go to Mr. Watson, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, who has been unsparing in his efforts to promote and enlarge the interests of the Association, and of the jute industry, which efforts in certain direction, it is gratifying to record, have been crowned with success.

The work of the Calcutta laboratories has been almost entirely devoted to problems arising out of the war, and it seems unfortunate that in a year when several matters of commercial importance have been brought to a successful issue, there should be less time and space than usual to devote to a fuller discussion of these in a report.

The main concern of the Department during the year under review has been the rotproofing of sandbags. Much spade work had been done on this subject in previous years, and a further study has been made during the year just past of the performance of the proofed bags under a variety of different conditions. The results of these tests have been very satisfactory and when co-ordinated they will clearly show the many advantages of a rotproofed sanbag when compared with an ordinary one.

The fullest co-operation has been maintained with the London Department and the Sandbag Advisory Committee whose advices have been most useful, but chiefly on account of the unavoidable delays in correspondence and because the situation in India presents rather a different aspect from that at Home, it has been necessary for the Calcutta laboratories to act

more or less on their own initiative, while keeping the London Department fully informed.

In the latter part of the year His Majesty's Government placed an order for 150 million sandbags, and to fulfil the terms of this order and to meet the specification laid down by Government, the mills have been suitably organised and provided with all the necessary information and technical instructions. It should be mentioned that this order was placed on the basis of samples submitted by the Calcutta laboratories in 1940, which had been subject to exhaustive test by the Home Authorities. It was unfortunate that at the last moment Government demanded a brown proofed bag instead of a green one, which meant a complete re-organisation of the method of proofing. It is very satisfactory now to record that in the short space of time available the Calcutta Research Department found it possible to evolve a method which without interrupting production in any way was able to fulfil the terms of the specification, and which is now working to practically 100% efficiency. Fuller mention of this important matter will be found elsewhere in the report.

Two other subjects can be said to have reached the stage of successful development, that of camouflage nets from jute twine, and cement bags. Success in the former issue is the result of several years of effort to persuade the Government of India that jute nets can be made at least to equal hemp nets. The placing of orders for cement bags by the manufacturers at Home, who had practically decided to abandon jute altogether as a container for cement, is undoubtedly due to the energy and patience of Dr. Barker and Mr. Watson, and to the mills for their repeated attempts to give the cement manufacturers exactly what they wanted.

The subject of moisture in jute is one which can now be regarded as complete, so far as the acquisition of the necessary scientific data on which the suggested standard or standards are to be based is concerned. A complete scheme for commercial purposes is in the process of compilation as a result of this scientific study and two different types of industrial conditioning ovens are at present under construction and test. The complications and ramifications of this subject are very great, and it therefore has been necessary minutely to study and examine

all factors involved before making specific recommendations which may become of national, if not of international, importance.

The problems of sizing and dyeing have also had time and care devoted to them, and will shortly be the subjects of memoirs by the Chief Chemist. Fuller reference to the work of the Department will be made in the Chief Chemist's Annual Report. During the year the fullest co-operation has again been maintained between the Department and individual mills, and the Chief Chemist has again expressed his appreciation of the assistance afforded him by subscribers.

Enquiries from members have continued to take a prominent place in the work of the Department although in many instances priority has had to be given to other matters which has resulted in some cases in delays before replies have been possible. Altogether 54 enquiries were received during the year consisting of 19 private and 35 general. This brings the total number of enquiries handled by the Department since this service was instituted in 1938 to 178 which is only slightly less than one per week.

During the year the second paper on "The Swelling of Jute Fibres" was published by the Chief Chemist, and a member of his staff Mr. M. K. Sen, M.Sc. in the Journal of the Textile Institute. Reprints of this paper were ordered from London and were issued to subscribers.

The Chief Chemist was again nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as their representative on the Bengal Industrial Research Board, and continued to act during the year on the General and Research Sub-Committees of that Board.

**Fundamental Research.**—It was recorded in the report for 1940 that the Committee hoped to issue during the course of another year a summarised report of the investigations carried on at Leeds University on behalf of the Association. Interim reports were forwarded by Dr. Barker, covering the work up till August, 1941—the second of these reports just received—and it has not been possible as yet to issue a full report summarising all the results.

Dr. Barker intimated in September that the Ph.D. of London University and the Diploma of the Imperial College, London,

had been awarded to Mr. Morris for his researches. His services had, however, been requisitioned by Government and he had been released from 1st September.

Arrangements were being made by Professor Speakman for the continuance of the work, but up to date details of these are not available.

**Report on tossa jute canvas.**—During the year a report was received from Dr. Barker on the million yards of tossa jute canvas, for which an order had been placed through the Controller of Purchases (Jute) in the previous year. Full details were given of various tests carried out on this material in Britain—particularly with regard to its suitability for waterproofing—and of the comments made on them.

As it was thought that this report would not be of general interest, but would be of particular interest to those mills which had actually manufactured the cloth in question, the report was not printed, but was issued in order of application to members interested. Members indicated that they found the report helpful and interesting.

**Finance.**—To estimate the expenditure for the Department during 1941, a second year of war, was a difficult matter, since it was necessarily impossible to foresee what might be the increase in many items of expenditure. A larger amount, Rs. 15,000, was allowed for contingencies in order to provide for uncertain factors in the estimate. The total expenditure for the year was estimated, therefore at Rs. 160,431, a sum greater by Rs. 24,883-8-1 than the actual expenditure in 1940.

In order to meet this expenditure the Committee noted that a levy on subscribers of Rs. 2-12-0 per loom would realise Rs. 174,699-4-0, a sum slightly in excess of the estimate. In order, however, to meet the expenditure and provide an opening balance for the beginning of another year, it was decided to levy Rs. 2/- per loom in July, and Rs. 0-12-0 per loom later in the year.

This was accordingly done, and it is gratifying to record that there is a surplus on the year's working of Rs. 28,694-8-6, which has been transferred to the Capital account. The latter now stands at Rs. 90,118-14-9.

**Rotproofing of sandbags.**—The subject of rotproofing sandbags has been the major concern of the Research Department during the whole of 1941. A complete record of the Department's activities would be too bulky for incorporation in a report of this nature. These, however, were instrumental in achieving for the industry an order of considerable magnitude for sandbags, whose place under conditions of warfare as known to-day had been in danger of relegation to that of secondary importance. Moreover, three other problems of major importance to the industry had of necessity to receive less attention because of the determination to press to a satisfactory conclusion this rotproofing question. It is but right therefore that some endeavour should be made to do more than briefly summarise a subject which has been of such importance and which, now that mills are working satisfactorily and with facility in the manufacture of rotproofed bags, may be said to have established beyond doubt the wisdom of the view that the Department should have a permanent place in this great industry's activities.

Mention was made in the 1940 report that a trial order of 20,000 rotproofed sandbags had been placed by His Majesty's Government. The object of this experimental consignment was to ascertain whether the Association could undertake the processing of bags in bulk according to conditions laid down by Government, and also to enable the Home Authorities to have these bags thoroughly tested, both under control conditions in the laboratory and under the much more severe conditions of actual usage and exposure.

In the early part of last year, indications were received that His Majesty's Government visualised the probability of all sandbags having to be rotproofed, provided satisfactory arrangements could be made and the proofing specification, which would be laid down, both obtained and maintained. The method of proofing which had been indicated as the one likely to be adopted involved the use of cuprammonium solution, and on an assurance from the Chief Chemist that mills could undertake this type of proofing on a large scale and amounting to a then estimated production of 5,000,000 bags per month, the Research Department were instructed to organise mills on the basis of such an order and

to ensure the necessary technical guidance and instructions in rotproofing with the required details and blue prints of the equipment. This was speedily undertaken ; and provision was also made to have the rotproofing equipment run from an independent source of power, so that if necessary it could work 24 hours a day without affecting other departments in the mills.

Blue prints of a complete assembly which could readily be erected ; a drawing of the impregnation tank ; and a description of the actual rotproofing process with details for preparation of the cuprammonium liquor, were furnished to representative mills. Whenever an assembly was completed, the Department were notified and a production test carried out in which anything from 2,000 to 8,000 yards were processed. Representative samples were taken from each test, checked at the laboratories and a report submitted to each mill in question. In every test the results were excellent and the samples well up to specification. Altogether approximately a lakh of yards was processed during these tests.

Simultaneously, arrangements were made for the maintenance of supply of essential chemicals ; and mills were informed of what their quota would be based on the Research Department's formula. This formula is based on one originally submitted by the Scientific Adviser in the development of which much time and effort have been spent. It is carefully balanced : it ensures that not only will the appropriate copper content be obtained in the proofed bag, but the bag itself will be neutral in reaction and will contain no free caustic or other alkali likely to cause chemical deterioration. Since ammonia in gas or liquor form was unobtainable, an alternative method of generating ammonia from sulphate of ammonia and caustic soda was used. This method adds appreciably to the weight of the proofed bag, due to the presence of neutral sodium sulphate formed in the preparation of the cuprammonium liquor which is also absorbed by the bag and being hygroscopic attracts additional moisture ; but this was not considered a disadvantage by the Home Authorities.

Prior to the receipt of the official order, 16 mills, from groups almost representative of the entire industry, had their



equipment passed as satisfactory or were at the stage of completion : in addition, arrangements for storage and issue of the supply of chemicals were complete. At the end of August, an official order for 150 million rotproofed sandbags was placed by His Majesty's Government, to be produced at the rate of 12½ million per month, commencing October. This quantity was 2½ times that originally indicated on which the foregoing arrangements had been made. It was not anticipated, however, that any undue difficulty would attach to expansion up to this quantity, provided suitable arrangements could be made for supervision and control tests by the Department, and that the Inspection Authorities could cope with testing representative samples from this large quantity of bags. Every assistance was given by the Department to the Inspection Authorities and as a result of the full measure of collaboration which existed between these Authorities in Calcutta and the Inspectorate of General Stores, Cawnpore, the early difficulties and misunderstandings were overcome without too great a delay. Additionally, the Research Department considered it their duty to place at manufacturing mills' disposal, in advising on and systematically checking up on their outturn of this entirely novel process, their acquired technique, data, and experience. Therefore seven additional chemists were employed by the Department for the routine testing of samples submitted by mills ; and reports on these were issued at regular intervals to all mills engaged on proofing.

When the order was received it was stated that the colour of the bags must be brown, whereas single bath cuprammonium proofing, indicated as the one to be used and in fact that which had been developed in the manner before described, results in a green coloured bag. This demand created a difficulty which, in view of the short space of time available before production actually started, appeared almost insurmountable. Part of the experimental consignment of bags submitted in 1940 had been proofed by a two bath process involving the use of cutch and cuprammonium solutions separately. These bags had apparently stood up very well to tests in the United Kingdom, but the method used was comparatively expensive and the rate of production slow. In addition, the equipment installed in mills and the instructions

issued were specifically for single bath cuprammonium proofing. To attempt to change the mills, therefore, from a single bath to a two bath system with double drying would not only have involved an inordinate delay, but the rate of production would have been slowed down to such an extent as to have rendered extremely problematical, a subsequent "step up" to meet the demands of His Majesty's Government.

Advices from Great Britain advocating the use of pigment dispersions added to the cuprammonium liquor to get the desired shade were found, on consideration and for a variety of technical reasons, to be impracticable and costly in work in India. Accordingly, some simple method had to be evolved of applying the cutch and cuprammonium in a single bath to get the desired shade for the bags and at the same time maintain consistent proofing. The difficulties encountered were many. Cutch combines with cuprammonium to form an insoluble copper/cutch compound which progressively settles and results in the copper and the colour being removed from the bath. In continuous production therefore, the proofing will progressively fall below specification both as regards copper content and colour ; and actual practice demonstrated the validity of these contentions.

Again, there arose from this the difficulty of the equipment to be employed. The type of proofing vat originally installed in the mills had been designed specifically for cuprammonium proofing and was not satisfactory for cutch/cuprammonium proofing by a single stage process principally because of the technical processing facts enumerated above. After much concentrated effort, it was found possible to develop an idea suggested by a member of the Research Department's staff U. Chatterjee, M.Sc. to get over these difficulties and achieve the desired aim. Blue prints of the new type of tank required—one of which had been built and thoroughly tested out on bulk production—were speedily reproduced ; and it is a matter of considerable satisfaction to be able to record, in the light of circumstances before stated, that a number of mills started proofing bags to the new specification by the beginning of October.

The Chief Chemist's estimate of the position as then obtaining was that mills would start proofing to about 70% efficiency,

but that by the end of the year this would be raised to round about 100%. These estimates have proved accurate and figures received from the Inspection Authorities in Calcutta for the samples tested in January, 1942, showed that out of 47 mills, 41 had an average copper content between 1% and 1.5%—this is the specification—five showed results varying from 0.95% and 1.0%, and one mill was between 0.9% and 0.95%. For all practical purposes, the results of the small minority of six mills will pass.

By the consideration given to all detail involved, by the time and energy spent on the subject by the staff of the Department, the technical and practical difficulties encountered by mills have been few. Mention should, however, be made of the trouble experienced with copper piping and copper plated squeeze rollers. On the basis of tests made, copper was regarded as the most suitable available metal to use, but practical results soon showed that the action of the free ammonia in the cuprammonium liquor was much more severe than had been found in the laboratory tests, particularly at mills working 24 hours a day without respite. Replacements had to be made until it was found that lead or armoured rubber hose would serve for the pipe connections and cast iron rollers for squeezing. Since these recommendations have been put into practice, no single complaint has been received from any mill.

The Research Department Committee regard these results as eminently satisfactory and they pay a special tribute to the scientific staff of the Department for the practical, efficient, and expeditious manner in which all difficulties were met and methods devised to surmount them which paid high regard to simplicity and economy in time and in money. All those involved have co-operated wholeheartedly under a centralised control and direction in aim consistently pursued by the Association, with results which can be witnessed in the flow from the mills of sandbags rotproofed to specification. The administrative, technical and scientific control have been in the capable hands of Dr. Macmillan, the Association's Chief Chemist, and for his work in this, the Research Department Committee would place on record their warmest thanks. They gladly make known also the Chief Chemist's particular wish for his thanks to be

conveyed, through the medium of this report, to all those mill managers and their technical assistants for their collaboration and assistance in the bulk trials on the new specification. The Association and the industry have, too, the pleasant duty of recording the considerable part played in the successful cumulation of the order placed with the mills for rotproofed bags, by the London Advisory Committee and Dr. Barker, the Association's Scientific Adviser, whose contacts with the Home Authorities proved invaluable and whose advice and help in technical and scientific matters have been unstintingly given.

The arrangements made for the regular supply of the necessary chemicals were temporarily thrown out of gear by delays in shipping and in the issue of the necessary priority certificates for export from the United Kingdom which prevented the regular supply of copper sulphate in the manner originally planned. Shipments arrived in January, 1942, and now there should be no hindrance to steady continued production.

**Moisture in jute.**—At the end of the 1940 report it was remarked that the Committee in collaboration with the Chief Chemist hoped in the near future to submit a complete and detailed scheme on this subject, after which steps would be taken to secure agreement for their recommendations from all interested sections of the trade.

The formulation of this scheme has required much careful thought and consideration on the part of the Committee and the Chief Chemist, and there have been in addition several unavoidable delays, so that it has not yet been possible to put forward these recommendations.

The first step being to fix definite standards for the moisture content of jute, the Chief Chemist, in December 1940, put forward recommendations to the Committee as follows:—

1. That one standard only for the assessment of moisture be adopted, instead of two, as at present, and
2. That a regain figure of 17% be adopted for commercial moisture assessment.

These recommendations were adopted by the Committee after examination of the various points at issue, particularly as to whether the regain standard should be accepted or that of moisture content, as this was a more familiar term to sellers.

Regain standards are based on dry weight which is non-variable and consequently the only true basis for assessments. Moisture content on the other hand, if determined on the weight of jute as received, will have a variable basis in that the original weight of the jute will not remain constant but will vary according to climatic and exposure conditions. The essential differences between these two methods of calculations will be fully explained when the Department issue their report on this subject.

Further consideration was also given to the establishment of a conditioning house in Calcutta and its location should such a proposal be considered as one for adoption. A draft scheme was prepared and considered in which the object and functions of such a test house were outlined, along with its administration, operation and finance, and the Committee were finally of opinion that such a Test House if instituted could be located in the first place at the Government Test House at Alipore.

The Chief Chemist interviewed the Director of the Test House in this regard, who expressed the opinion that there would be no objection to testing being carried out there, provided space was available and the Association were responsible for the purchase of ovens and other necessary equipment. This was agreed to by the Committee and it was pointed out that Government would be recompensed for any outlay on staff from the income derived from the fees charged for moisture tests.

Methods of drawing samples for test were also carefully investigated in order to ascertain whether small representative samples drawn from jute bales were approximately equivalent to bulk samples in moisture assessments. Laboratory determinations on samples drawn in a variety of ways from bales appear to indicate that small samples of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in weight would give results sufficiently correct for arbitration purposes, so long as the samples were suitably drawn and speedily packed in air-tight containers. It is evident, however, from this series of tests that fair and representative sampling of jute from bales, if small samples are to be used, would—in view

of the fact that raw jute is baled in the form of bundles of stricks—present many difficulties not encountered with cotton and wool for example, which are packed in a loose and consequently readily accessible form.

Following on these investigations the subject of a suitable industrial drying oven was discussed with the Air Conditioning Corporation, and experiments conducted to discover whether the inclusion of an air conditioning device was essential in the construction of such an oven, or whether ordinary untreated air would suffice in Bengal with its wide range of climatic variations. The drying capacity of an oven is largely influenced by the amount of water vapour contained in the air circulating through the oven, which in turn may have a material effect on the final weight obtained and there were in addition other scientific factors which had to be considered. The Research Department carried out a special research on this problem and the results of this investigation showed that the effects on the dry weight of jute of the moisture condition of the air circulated is noticeable, and considering the fluctuation of Calcutta atmospheres the differences of regain values determined at different conditions of atmosphere may reach 0·5%.

The Chief Chemist in summing up the position from the scientific and technical viewpoints in relationship to the trade aspect stated, "that when jute is dried by hot air in a conditioning oven, the differences in residual regain of jute, even under the extremes of damp and dry atmospheric conditions in the circulated air and which are likely to be encountered in this country, is insufficient to merit the introduction of an air conditioning chamber or device in the air circuit". He also added, "that although sellers may object if jute which was packed in the high prevailing humidities during the monsoon months was tested for moisture content in the dry months, without artificially boosting up the moisture of the air in the oven, this objection could be overcome if a compensating tolerance of say 0·5% was introduced in such cases".

The Committee accordingly decided that an air conditioning device was not essential, and the Air Conditioning Corporation were instructed to proceed forthwith to design an industrial oven suitable for the Association's requirements. After numerous

details with regard to the oven had been arranged, it was most unfortunate that just when the matter had reached this stage priority of Government orders prevented the makers from proceeding with the scheme. The Committee were most reluctant to have any further delays and considered it was essential to have their scheme formulated and put forward to the trade at the earliest possible moment. It was expected that criticism would be encountered on the scheme as a whole from certain sections of the trade, and that in all probability re-adjustments and modifications would have to be made before the plan could be put into practice if possible for the 1912-13 crop. It was decided therefore to proceed in spite of this setback, and the Chief Chemist was instructed to engage the services of a Consulting Engineer who would, in conjunction with Mr. Nicoll of Hooghly Mills (whose original model was to serve as a pattern) design the type of oven required.

Mr. Bartholomew of Williams, Temple & Bartholomew, Consulting Engineers, was engaged and has drawn up plans for a steam heated oven which is at present under construction. Mr. Nicoll has himself also designed and constructed an electrically heated industrial oven capable of testing 500 lbs. of jute at a time, and this oven is now under test. The progress which has been made in getting settled the various points of difficulty and causes of likely dispute has been considerable; and throughout the Association have worked in close consultation with the Indian Central Jute Committee on the more purely scientific aspects of this problem, particularly those relating to the fixing of standards, and are indebted to that body and in particular to Mr. Nodder for the assistance rendered and information provided.

The Special Officer, Jute, Government of Bengal, had during the year raised the question of different standards of moisture assessment in different districts, since some are known to be damper than others. The Committee pointed out, however, that their proposed standard of 17% for what might be called commercially dry jute is a fair average not only for all seasons of the year but for all jute growing districts and must be kept entirely separate from any higher figure which might be introduced by Government as a basis for

legislation in the event of penalties being imposed for excessive watering of jute. In the opinion of the Committee also, the setting up of different standards for different seasons of the year and for different districts, would lead to many complications and to much abuse in legislative questions; and they have acquainted Government with all the work, and the ideals in this, being done by them in conjunction with the Indian Central Jute Committee.

**Collaboration with the Indian Central Jute Committee.**—The Indian Central Jute Committee and the Association's Research Department continued to refer to each other matters of mutual interest during the year, particularly on references to fibre substitutes in other countries.

The following representatives of this Association along with the Chief Chemist, were co-opted to serve on the Special *ad hoc* Sub-Committee appointed by the Indian Central Jute Committee to consider the question of machinery, buildings etc., necessary for the proposed extension of the activities of the Technological Research Laboratories:—

Mr. J. R. Walker.                      Mr. J. A. Murray.

Mr. I. G. Kennedy.                      Mr. G. M. Garric.

This machinery it was noted, was intended essentially for the spinning of fine yarns, and the recommendations of the Special Sub-Committee were also required as to suitable machinery for the investigations which the Indian Central Jute Committee proposed to make on the subject of new uses for jute.

In this connection the Indian Central Jute Committee enquired of this Association whether suitable machinery was available in the mills for experimental work on weaving research. In their reply the Association indicated the desire of the mills to assist in any contemplated programmes of research and to co-operate at all times, but desired a fuller explanation of what was implied by the phrase "weaving research". When the Indian Central Jute Committee's extended programme of research was accordingly submitted to this Association, it was realised that much of the work suggested involved duplication of much of the work already done, or being done by this



Association's Research Department Laboratories either here or in London and also by other research organisations and machinery makers. The Indian Central Jute Committee had indicated that they desired to know which items in their programme of research should, in the Association's opinion, have priority of place in order to be of assistance to the mills.

The Research Department Committee decided therefore to discuss the whole subject of the principle of collaboration between this Association and the Indian Central Jute Committee, and this was done at a meeting held on 7th January, 1942. As a result of their discussions a reply was sent to that body pointing out that the duplication of work and the overlapping of programmes was not only unnecessary but wasteful, particularly at the present time. Concentration by the Indian Central Jute Committee on the fibre itself would, on the other hand, be of the greatest possible service to this Association and not only to the Association but to the cultivator and the jute industry in general. The utilisation of jute for purposes other than fabrics such as for example the preparation of viscose, paper, absorbent wadding, etc., could also if necessary be included since the isolation of cellulose from jute is a comparatively simple matter. The other subject on which much work might be done which would be of great value to the jute industry was, it was indicated, the important question of jute substitutes. This is referred to in greater detail in the section dealing with jute substitutes.

The Association accordingly recommended that the research suggested by the Indian Central Jute Committee on fibre, storage and blending problems, and in particular comparison of quality of yarns, were the items which in their opinion should be given priority of place in the Indian Central Jute Committee programme, this being in addition work fitting in directly with the correlation of fibre quality and spinning property which is one of the main features of the work of the Technological Research Laboratories.

Finally, the Association suggested that all manufacturing and fabric enquiries made to the Indian Central Jute Committee might profitably be referred first of all to this Association which deals particularly with the capacities of the mills to turn out or to develop specialised fabrics.

**Camouflage nets.**—One of the subjects which came prominently before the Committee during the year was the suitability of jute for camouflage nets. The importance and urgency of an enquiry into the position was evident when the Association's Chief Chemist was summoned to Delhi in July to assist in deliberations on the possibility of utilising jute twine for the making of camouflage nets. There were already serious deficiencies, it was reported, in the deliveries of Sunn hemp, which had previously been exclusively used for army nets. As a large increase in the demand for camouflage nets was anticipated, and as even a vigorous cultivation of indigenous hemp failed to produce adequate stocks, consideration had to be given to the investigation of alternative indigenous fibres or materials, with a view to their adoption and utilisation.

The question had been raised in the previous year, and sample fibre nets made and submitted to the Camouflage Authorities in the United Kingdom and to the Chief Inspector of Stores and Clothing, Cawnpore: doubts however, had been cast on the strength and durability of these and as supplies of hemp and sisal were at that time plentiful the matter had been dropped.

In the meetings at Delhi attended by the Chief Chemist a prejudice against the use of jute nets was evident, but no satisfactory reasons were given why there should be such a prejudice, nor had any scientific data been collected to prove that hemp nets were more durable or more likely to resist exposure than jute. In the absence of facts and figures to justify the apparent bias against the use of jute, the Chief Chemist had stated that, while jute was initially a weaker fibre than hemp, he did not consider there should be any marked difference between the relative rate of deterioration of the two fibres, and suggested that direct comparative tests should be made between jute and hemp. The facilities of the Research Department laboratories were offered in this connection, and the tests would be open to inspection by any authority at any time. This offer was approved and accepted, and the results of the tests carried out to determine the relative merits of jute and hemp yarns as regards their suitability for camouflage nets have so far shown the relative rates of deterioration of jute and hemp to be about the same. Also the jute yarns used in the jute nets were much

more regular, and possessed a higher degree of elasticity than the corresponding hemp yarns which were spun by hand.

Later in the year it was revealed that a trial order of Rs. 5 lacs was likely to be placed with mills willing to manufacture jute nets to the Government specifications. In the manufacture of these nets Mr. J. S. Quin, Adviser on Rope Supplies, gave his advice and help, and Messrs. McLeod & Co. having manufactured a net which proved to be even better than the Government specifications demanded, indicated their willingness to make sample nets exactly to specification and to send these for inspection to mills wishing to participate in the order. There was a good response to the appeal to member mills to assist in the making of these essential war supplies, and it was realised that so long as the price of jute continued to be lower than that of hemp, the demand for jute nets was likely to be considerable.

In the same connection favourable comments by the authorities at home were cabled by Dr. Barker in September on Col. Haskard's Screenwell Material as made in India last year by Messrs. McLeod & Co. and Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co. Its suitability for use in the Middle East was suggested, provided it could be made in India and sent direct. The London Advisory Committee suggested direct contact with Middle East Headquarters on the subject, but the Research Department Committee preferred to make their approach through official channels, and the Adviser on Jute Supplies accordingly requested the Deputy Director of Supplies to make it known to the proper authorities in the Middle East that supplies of this material could be made and sent direct. At the time of writing nothing more has been heard of the matter, and the promised samples of Col. Haskard's Screenwell material have not yet been received from Dr. Barker.

**Dyeing of camouflage cloth.**—It had been reported by the Chief Inspector of Stores and Clothing, Cawnpore, that the shades produced by the dyes used in the manufacture of camouflage strips were fugitive and that the Army requirements were that the dyes should be sufficiently fast to withstand outdoor conditions in the Middle East and in India for six months including a period of wet weather.

As the Chief Chemist was conducting an enquiry into dyeing in the jute industry, the complaint was referred to him and he

gave it as his opinion—an opinion endorsed by Mr. Fraser-Thomson, I.C.I., Dyestuffs Department, and later by Dr. Barker—that it was impossible to give the guarantees asked for by Government unless special and expensive dyes were used. It should, however, he considered, be possible to produce dyed fabrics whose fastness to light would be superior to those already supplied. He suggested that the Research Department should carry out a series of investigations in collaboration with Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., the Research Department paying special attention to the casein size process described by Dr. Barker in the Department's Secret Report No. 1.

In reply to an enquiry by cable, Dr. Barker reported that the casein process had proved very successful in Britain and that material treated by the process was still satisfactory after fifteen months' exposure. Dr. Barker realised, however, that conditions in this respect, as in others, are very different in India from what they are in England and that the difficulties in the way of obtaining fast dyestuffs for conditions in the East are very great. Dr. Barker therefore submitted alternative methods which might be successful and tests on these were conducted in the Research Department Laboratories. The dyestuffs themselves were expensive, however, and would probably be difficult to obtain in India in quantities sufficient for bulk production.

With the entry of Japan into the War, difficulties in the way of procuring suitable dyestuffs were increased. Official reference was made to the subject by means of a circular and a survey has been made by the Chief Chemist, the results of which will be issued shortly in the form of a memoir.

Indigenous natural extracts have also been the subject of research in this connection, and the Chief Chemist has been in communication with the Forest Research Institute, Dêhra Dun, who are making a study of this problem.

**Jute for aerodromes.**—It had been reported by Mr. Watson, Chairman of the London Advisory Committee, that a new outlet for jute cloth was likely in Col. Ionides' process which involved the use of asphalt and jute for the laying of aerodrome runways. For various reasons connected with the war, the Air Ministry and Ministry of Transport

refused to carry out the necessary tests, and it seemed as if this project, which in the opinion of the Advisory Committee carried the most promising possibilities for the future of the jute industry, would not meantime reach the experimental stage.

In mid-September, however, Mr. Watson cabled asking the sanction of the Association to the expenditure of about £250 for experimental work in connection with the Ionides Surfacing for aerodromes. Details given later by Dr. Barker revealed that the officials of the Air Ministry had admitted their lack of interest in any surfacing for aerodromes that could not be created speedily without much time spent on laying of foundations. As aerodromes in these times may be speedily destroyed by enemy bombers, temporary surfacing was called for and as Col. Ionides' process was both cheaply constructed and speedy, the authorities were now willing to have the experiment carried out in a new aerodrome provided the Indian Jute Mills Association shared the cost. This the Research Committee and the General Committee agreed to do, and details of the experiment and of its results are awaited with keen interest.

In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, this is one of the finest opportunities to increase permanently the consumption of hessian cloth. During the war the demand for aerodrome runways will undoubtedly increase and after the war the demand must continue for some time at least on a reduced scale, while for road surfacing the Ionides process if successful will undoubtedly create a heavy demand for jute cloth.

**Improved cement bags.**—Negotiations had been started, it will be remembered, in the previous year between Dr. Barker and Mr. Watson on the one hand, and representatives of the Cement Makers' Federation on the other, in a renewed attempt to recapture the trade in cement bags which had been almost entirely lost to the jute trade.

In reply to cabled advices from Mr. Watson, sample bags of various specifications were despatched from Calcutta, this in addition to the samples sent in 1940 by Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. While these were being awaited in London every effort was made to induce the cement manufacturers to state what type of bag would suit their requirements exactly,

even to the extent of suggesting a paper-lined jute bag which would be water-proof and so possess one of the acceptable qualities of the paper bag. A visit was also paid by the Advisory Committee and Dr. Barker to the factory at Northfleet to inspect the manufacture of paper cement bags, in their very real desire to assess the qualities and possibilities of the paper bag and to discover the reasons for the prejudice against jute bags.

In November, however, after many delays, a cable was received from Mr. Watson indicating that a substantial order might be forthcoming, and this, it is gratifying to note, was followed shortly by orders for urgent war supplies of cement bags.

These orders are undoubtedly due firstly, to the initiative and energy shown by Dr. Barker in his contacts with representatives of the cement trade, and secondly, to the time and trouble taken by Mr. Watson, and to the tact and perseverance shown by him in all the discussions on the subject.

**Jute for cable covering.**—It was mentioned in the report for 1910 that the Committee had sent to London forty-eight samples of the standard Calcutta types of cloth and rove, also samples of one particular type of cloth with different oil contents and different kinds of finish on both starched and unstarched material. These were to be remitted through Dr. Barker to the representatives of the Cable Makers' Association, in order that the Cable Markers could decide which types of material were most suited to their requirements for cable covering.

The samples sent in January did not reach London till June, and a report on their usefulness is still awaited. It was reported, however, that the Cable Company intended to make exhaustive tests of the samples and were prepared to take a great deal of trouble to get exactly what they wanted, and that a final decision could not be arrived at quickly.

Meantime, Mr. Watson, Chairman of the London Advisory Committee, supplied interesting and very useful details to the Committee after a visit paid to Callender's Cable and Construction Co.'s Works. Mr. Watson after seeing the process of cable covering was able to stress the importance of complete penetration of the cloth by the petroleum pitch, and was therefore able to give

practical suggestions as to the type of cloth required. In addition, he raised the question of yarn, which, if sent from Calcutta, must be supplied on cheeses, as this is the only form in which the yarn can be used on a cable-making machine. Mr. Watson also submitted specifications—tentative only and for further discussion—suggested by the cable makers from their experience of the essential requirements in cloth and yarn.

The Committee were of opinion that further research might be carried out in order to meet the exact requirements of the cable makers and secure a useful outcome to the negotiations.

**Sizing flour.**—During the year under review it was found impossible, owing to the volume of more pressing work directly attributable to war requirements, to complete the survey of the sizing problem for which the Chief Chemist had carried out a preliminary series of mill visits the previous year. Nevertheless, when the prices of both imported and indigenous maize and other starches continued to rise, it was considered by the Committee that suggestions for the use of alternative and cheaper methods of sizing than the use of imported starches might with advantage be made to subscribers.

A circular was therefore issued to subscribers drawing attention to the details of a process, kindly supplied by a subscribing member, where wheaten flour had been used with entire success over a period of years. The details of their formulae and methods of preparation were submitted for the benefit of other mills who might wish to make the change from the use of pearl maize and other imported starches to ordinary sizing flour.

As success in the use of wheaten flour for sizing depends greatly on the use of good quality flour, subscribers were advised to make certain that the flour used was free from mineral and other adulterants, and the Research Department indicated their willingness to help by testing any samples which subscribers might send in to them. A letter was also addressed to the Calcutta Flour Mills Association asking for their co-operation in the Association's efforts to popularise indigenous products and to secure for the mills supplies of suitable flour of good quality.

In connection with the scheme for the "Investigation of Indigenous Antiseptics with reference to Sizing", sanctioned by

the Government of Bengal and carried out in the Research Department Laboratories under the auspices of the Bengal Industrial Research Board, it is to be recorded that on the completion of the investigation, the services of the research worker Mr. I. Chakravarty were retained by the Association in the Research Department. A report on the whole subject will shortly be issued to subscribers.

**Substitutes for jute.**—Considerable information on one substitute for jute—New Zealand flax, or Phormium Tenax—was gained during the year, largely through the good offices of Messrs. Hoare Miller & Co's agents in New Zealand.

This subject had been raised by Dr. Barker, who had been told that the New Zealand Government had completely reorganised their flax factories and that it was their intention in future to make wool packs from mechanically extracted flax. The New Zealand informant of Messrs. Hoare Miller & Co. pointed out, however, that two entirely different products were being confused, namely, New Zealand flax or phormium tenax, and ordinary linen flax. The former is an inferior fibre which after processing is made into hemp of various grades and wool-packs; the latter is real linen flax, the seeds of which were sent out from the United Kingdom by the British Government owing to the shortage of linen flax since the closing down of Britain's former markets in Italy and the Balkan countries.

An extract from a New Zealand paper, "The Dominion", (sent to the Association by the Indian Central Jute Committee) recorded the opening of a new welfare block at the Foxton Wool-pack Factory, and seemed to indicate however, that very considerable backing and much financial support was being accorded the New Zealand flax industry, and that if the growth and expansion on the scale visualised by the Minister of Commerce and Industries were realised, this comparatively new industry would prove a formidable competitor in the wool-pack trade. It was anticipated that not only would New Zealand's complete outfit of woolpacks be fully met in 1942, but also a valuable trade developed with Australia in containers for wool, wheat, potatoes and other commodities.

The Research and General Committees considered therefore that the subject was one of real importance, and in their letter



of thanks to the Indian Central Jute Committee for the information passed on to them, they expressed the opinion that much wider publicity should be given to the possibilities of this and other competitive industries, and to the danger threatening the jute trade in Bengal, unless steps are taken to maintain jute prices on a basis economically sound as compared with other textiles.

The possibilities of arousing greater interest in the subject among the general public by suitable propaganda in the press, were suggested; in addition, the advisability of informing the Government of Bengal of the rapid growth of this competitive industry with its implications and possible repercussions in the province was emphasised.

In connection with another jute substitute of importance, Roselle fibre, the Association were informed that eight maunds of this fibre were for sale by the Assistant Fibre Expert, Bengal, and it was suggested by the Indian Central Jute Committee that the Association should have some sugar bag twill made from it, with a view to having comparative tests made from it as to its general suitability for storage of sugar, a subject in which the Sugar Research Institute, Cawnpore, was stated to be interested. A sample of the fibre is, however, being experimented with by a member mill in the first place, in order to assess the possibilities of spinning and weaving this fibre on jute mill machinery.

As was pointed out to the Indian Central Jute Committee, research on substitute fibres—particularly those which can be grown in Bengal—can be of considerable value to the jute industry. The results should be of great importance after the war, and if a better understanding of the manufacturing possibilities of these yarns can be obtained, and an indication given as to whether they can be successfully spun and woven on jute mill machinery, consideration may then be given to the possibilities of their development in India.

**Viscose treatment of jute.**—The Committee had agreed, towards the close of 1940, that the London Advisory Committee and Dr. Barker, representing the Association, should meet Mr. A. H. Kliner, of Messrs. Courtaulds Ltd., and discuss with him the proposal that the Association should collaborate with:

Courtaulds in the application of viscose to jute materials. As a result of this meeting it was the opinion of the London Advisory Committee and Dr. Barker that the Association should itself prepare viscose in accordance with the process devised by Dr. Barker and Dr. Norman, and apply it to jute fabrics in a communal factory to be set up by the Association.

In the Committee's deliberations on this proposal, several important points emerged. Firstly, that as carbon bisulphide, a chemical essential in the manufacture of viscose was unlikely to be available in India while the war was on, the question of preparation and manufacture did not arise. Secondly, Courtaulds "Textstuff" process requires special machinery, whereas two competitive methods, the "Cellofas" process of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., and the "Ceglin" process of the Sylvannic Corporation, New York, could be used on ordinary dyeing machinery. It seemed inadvisable therefore, for the Association to bind itself to collaboration with Courtaulds, which would entail using their process exclusively. Finally, the plan for a communal factory in Calcutta had long been under consideration, but much wider issues were involved than the production of viscose treated jute, and a communal factory could not be set up for this purpose alone.

When the results of these deliberations were communicated to the London Advisory Committee, they made it known to Mr. Kilner that the Association had decided not to proceed with the process.

**Fireproofing of jute.**—The Committee had received from Dr. Barker in the previous year details of various fire-proofing processes, and had stated that while the information available did not justify the issue of a departmental publication on the subject, members interested could receive details on application to the Secretary.

In the year just ended, Dr. Barker sent papers giving details of a secret process which, he claimed, had been adopted by the authorities at home, though it was not yet perfected. Samples of material fireproofed by this method were sent, but were unfortunately lost in transit. Later, Dr. Barker informed the Committee that the authorities had decided the process to be unsatisfactory over long periods of weathering, and that, in

general, the fire-proofing of camouflage materials was both expensive and unnecessary. Nevertheless this particular process was, in Dr. Barker's opinion, even in its present stage of development, definitely superior to any other method previously investigated.

**Temporary accommodation to Indian Stores Department and Chemical Defence Board.**—During the course of the year the Department were approached by the Indian Stores Department and Chemical Defence Board to supply temporary accommodation for a period of four to six months for examining and testing the resistance of oil-dressed fabrics to mustard gas.

The Research and General Committees were willing that the Chief Chemist should render every assistance in his power to these Government Departments, and one laboratory was given over entirely to the two chemists responsible for the work. The Government Departments concerned were willing to pay rental for the accommodation but this was given to them free of charge, since it was required for work of national importance.

The use of permanent equipment, such as testing apparatus, balances, etc., was also given free of charge, provided these were maintained in the condition in which received. Consumable apparatus such as test tubes, beakers etc., would, however, be the responsibility of Government and be purchased on their own account.

**Anti-blast fabrics: jute netting for windows.**—A possible new use for jute, the direct result of wartime needs, was indicated in an enquiry regarding the manufacture of jute netting for windows as a protection against blast. The enquiry—from the Director General of Supply—was accompanied by a request for samples of suitable types of low-priced jute material. At the same time and in the same connection, the Indian Central Jute Committee suggested an investigation into reinforced paper material as anti-blast fabric: this however, seemed much less suitable and the suggestion was not followed up.

The samples of orange pocket cloth and of scrim hessian sent in reply to the enquiry were considered by the Department of Supply to have very interesting possibilities and a request was

made for larger samples for test purposes, also a lighter sample of scrim. The Department also suggested that pre-treatment with an adhesive would be useful, provided the layers of hessian when rolled did not stick to each other.

The subject of a suitable adhesive was referred to the Research Department laboratories, and the Chief Chemist, in discussions with the authorities, stressed the fact that bitumen proofing of fabrics is a subject in which many of the mills already have considerable experience. With some initial supervision they could easily do straight-forward bitumen impregnation with special emulsions which would give much better adhesion to glass than straight-forward bitumen.

Dr. Macmillan enlisted the help in this matter of a representative in this country of a home firm which had worked out an excellent technique for anti-blast fabrics. In the opinion of this expert technician, a bitumen adhesive presented no difficulties and he offered his wholehearted co-operation in securing for Government, if required, large supplies of this anti-blast fabric coated with suitable bitumen adhesive. The necessary arrangements were made to have experiments carried out at a mill possessing suitable equipment, and while the results of these experiments—which have been frequently interrupted due to the use of the equipment for immediate orders—are not yet available, it is expected that the outcome of the trials will be forthcoming at an early date, when it is hoped that a new and possibly a large outlet for jute material will result.

**Yarn regularity tests.**—The Indian Central Jute Committee were approached by the Research Department Committee during the year with a request for information on how far their work of finding a method for the broad classification of yarns, as outlined in their Annual Report for 1939-40 had gone; and whether it was now possible to fix limits, even if only tentative, into which the various classes of yarn should fall. It had been pointed out by a subscriber that this information was particularly desirable if mills were to know what a "Class 1" yarn should be, and that it would give mills a standard to aim at in spinning, which, it was felt, would result in all round progress and a general raising of the quality of jute manufactures. In

reply to this request the Indian Central Jute Committee submitted certain tentative proposals with regard to classification of yarns on the basis of yarn strength and regularity, adding that the question of speckiness and colour could be considered at a later date.

Later in the year, the Director of the Technological Research Laboratories intimated that their laboratories were considering a change from a 30" test length for yarn to a 24" length as a standard for general purposes. The Committee agreed to standardise on the 24" test length since this length has been used, all along by the Research Department, except in special cases such as for testing jute sewing and tying twines for sandbags where a 36" length is specified. It was suggested that Mr. Nodder should advise the Dundee Technical College and the Manchester Testing House that such a change had been agreed upon by the Indian Central Jute Committee and the Research Department Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association.

Mr. Nodder also supplied to the Committee the data obtained as to the comparative results when 24-inch and 30-inch test lengths are used in single thread strength tests on jute yarns, and the figure to be used to convert results obtained with a 30-inch test-length to those expected for a 24 inch test length.

**"Jute Abstracts".**—During the year under review Dr. Barker successfully managed to continue the monthly issue of "Jute Abstracts", the last issue received up to the time of writing this report being that of September 1941, owing to the long delays at present occurring in the mail services.

In addition the "Jute Abstracts" of September, 1940, which had been lost in transit, were duplicated and sent out again by Dr. Barker, received and distributed to subscribers in January, 1942.

**The Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.**—The Bengal Chamber of Commerce intimated to the Committee during the year that a report of work carried out or of researches being conducted by the Department might be submitted to the Secretary, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, for incorporation in a survey of Industrial Researches such as had been issued the previous year.

In reply, the Committee said that as the Association's Research Department had been during 1942 almost wholly engaged on war work, the outline of the research being conducted remained substantially the same. In addition, the Association had no further scheme of research to submit for financing by the Board.

Endeavours are being made to maintain contacts with, and to obtain a record of the work done by, this Board.

**Enquiries from members.**—During the year the Department dealt with an increasing number of enquiries from subscribers, who have continued to make free use of this valuable service. In 1941 no fewer than 35 general and 19 private enquiries were dealt with by the Department. These enquiries covered many subjects and dealt with many aspects of mill practice and of the manufacture of the jute fabrics, and the more important and most interesting of these will be summarised by the Chief Chemist for the benefit of subscribers.

In addition to these enquiries from members, requests are increasingly being made to the Department by other industries for assistance in needs arising directly out of war restrictions. These particular enquiries are still the subject of study.

**Roofing Felts Patent.**—It was recorded in the report for 1940 that the Committee had decided to instruct Dr. Barker not to proceed to a complete patent in respect of the roofing felts process in Great Britain and had agreed with the opinion of their patent agents that it would be sufficient to protect the interests of the Association if a patent of addition to the Indian Patent were taken out. The Committee had also agreed that the patent in question might be transferred to British Bitumen Emulsions, Ltd. since the Association were protected by the patent in India. It was understood that British Bitumen Emulsions, Ltd., should keep the Association informed through Dr. Barker of any progress made in developing the process commercially so that mills in Calcutta which wished to make use of the process might have the benefit of the experience gained in Britain.

A copy of the specification as finally filed in Great Britain was received from Dr. Barker, and given to the Association's

Patent Agents to assist them in the taking out of a patent of addition to the original Indian patent. The patent agents thereupon drew up the necessary specifications, which were filed on 26th March, 1941, as a result of which subscribers are free to make use of the process in India without prejudice to the Indian patent rights when granted.

Due to postal delays and the loss of memoranda in transit, no confirmation of this having been done was received from Dr. Barker and it was remarked by a subscriber that according to an article in the August "Jute Review", it would appear that Dr. Barker had himself taken out the roofing felts patent in Great Britain. The Committee therefore cabled Dr. Barker enquiring the Association's precise position in the matter; the cabled reply received from Dr. Barker intimated that in order to preserve the continuity of the patent, and ensure full legal protection for the Association, British Bitumen Emulsions had agreed that the patent should be taken out in the name of Dr. Barker.

It was emphasised that no expense had been incurred on behalf of the Association and that no further action could be taken until the consent of the Association had been given to a procedure of which full details would be submitted later.

At the time of writing further particulars are still awaited.

#### **Provident Fund for the Research Department Staff.—**

The subject of a Provident Fund for the staff of the Research Department had been under consideration for a long time, and it had been hoped to have it in operation during the year. The Rules and Regulations as originally drawn up were necessarily the subject of close scrutiny by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal, however, and during the year a number of points were raised by him and there was a considerable amount of alteration and revision of the rules. The final amendments and suggestions made by the Commissioner were agreed to, and the whole sent back in December to be finally passed by him and given his official sanction.

Since matters had reached that stage, it was decided to operate the Fund as from 1st January, 1942, and the staff of the Research Department were notified to that effect. Provision has been made in the Rules for the benefits to operate retrospectively from the beginning of 1938.

**Staff.**—One important addition to the staff of the laboratories took place towards the end of 1941 when the services of Mrs. J. E. Ordish, B.Sc., were obtained, and she is now rendering valuable assistance as Special Assistant to the Chief Chemist. Seven additional chemists were also recruited on a temporary basis when the sandbag order materialised, in order to maintain a centralised control and check on the rotproofing process in the mills by testing sample bags submitted regularly for copper content.

*Chief Chemist* ... W. G. Macmillan, Ph. D. (Cantab) B. Sc  
Ph. D. (Aberd), F. I. C.

*Special Assistant to*  
*Chief Chemist* ... Mrs. J. E. Ordish, B. Sc.

*Chemists* ... Amarendra Nath Saha, M. Sc.  
Udayan Chatterjee, M. Sc.

*Assistant Chemist* ... Haripado Chattacharjee, B. Sc.

*Physicists* ... Mrinal Kanti Sen, M. Sc.  
Ram Ranjan Mookerjee, M. Sc.

*Biologists* ... Sachindra Nath Bose, M. Sc.  
Indu Bhusan Chakravorty, M. Sc.

*Temporary Chemists* Madhusudan Sen, M. Sc.  
Sangram Ranjan Sen Gupta, M. Sc.  
Sailendra Lal Banerjee, M. Sc.  
Haridass Bhomick, M. Sc.  
Debi Prosad Gupta, M. Sc.  
Sachindra Kumar Mazumdar, M. Sc.  
Nihar Ranjan Dass, M. Sc.

The Committee would put on record their appreciation of the able and efficient manner in which all members of the scientific and office staffs carried out their arduous duties during a particularly trying year. Their special thanks are due to the Chief Chemist on whom a heavy responsibility has rested, due to the greatly increased activities of the Department owing to the war, and who has shouldered that responsibility with an energy and enthusiasm that has enabled routine work



to be carried on while war time problems were at the same time being tackled.

The Committee would also acknowledge their appreciation of the continued help and advice rendered them by the Scientific Advisor in London, Dr. Barker. The year has been a particularly heavy one for the London Department also, and the demands of Government Departments on Dr. Barker's time, and the calls for his assistance and advice have been innumerable. In spite of these demands and in spite of overwork and illness, the ordinary work of the London Department has been carried on as usual, and the essential services, such as the issue of Jute Abstracts, maintained in full operation.

**Future of the Research Department.**—During the year the Committee formulated and presented to the General Committee a scheme for the re-organisation and extension of the Research Department.

The necessity for planning ahead on this subject arose, firstly, because the lease of the present site of the Research Department expires in September, 1943, and affords no room for expansion, and secondly, because not only had the work of the Department increased more than one hundred per cent owing to urgent war demands, but also because, in addition, more than one of the Department's laboratories were being used for Government work. In 1940, one was given over to the "Investigation into indigenous antiseptics with special reference to jute sizing", and in 1941, the Indian Stores Department and Chemical Defence Board, asked for and obtained temporary accommodation in the Research Department's laboratories for their work of examining and testing the resistance of oil-dressed fabrics to mustard gas. The facilities of the air-conditioned test room have also been extended to Government in their work.

The definite large scale orders received from Government for rot-proofed sandbags made necessary an increase in the staff of the Department for the work of testing the output of the mills in the matter of copper content. There are now employed at the Department, including menial staff, 32 persons compared with 17 at the corresponding time last year, with the result that accommodation is becoming increasingly restricted.

For these reasons, and also very largely because the work of the Research Department in 1941 had shown how wide is the scope and the need for further investigation of such subjects as the bleaching and dyeing of jute, viscose treatment of jute, the use of jute for cables, for roads, for aerodromes, for insulation—all subjects of vital importance if jute is to retain its position in the world's trade after the war—the Research Department Committee proceeded with their plans for extension and re-organisation of the whole department. The Association had already supported—in response to Circular No. 165-R.D. of 24th September 1940—the Committee's desire to put the Department on a permanent basis, and the details of the scheme had now to be dealt with.

A suitable site was selected during the year on which the Committee have at present an option pending definite decisions on the matter, and various designs for the new laboratories were submitted by Messrs. Ballardie, Thomson and Mathews, and also await final approval. In the complete plan a scheme is envisaged whereby new machinery will be acquired for use in the larger premises, and it will be possible to demonstrate in actual working practice many of the processes such as water-proofing, bleaching etc., which have been worked out by the Department. Mill Managers can, it is hoped, then see new ideas actually in operation at the Department instead of, as at present, the Department's staff having to go to a mill and dislocate its ordinary routine each time it wishes to carry out experiments in bulk.

It is visualised that eventually there may be not only pilot and experimental plant, but also the establishment of that communal factory which has for so long been spoken of, and in which the work of the mills in many finishing processes would be concentrated. It is recognised that at the present time some of the ideas outlined could not be carried out completely and that some need greater consideration before definite progress can be made. New machinery for example, would probably be to a large extent unobtainable till after the war, but is the hope of the Committee that items in the whole plan impossible of attainment meantime would only be held over till the war is over.

The provision of new buildings and equipment would naturally entail a much larger initial expenditure than was the case when the Research Department was instituted, but it was the Committee's opinion that spread over the membership of the Association the liability of individual mills would not be great. Plans and estimates on these lines were submitted by the Committee to the General Committee, and are at the time of writing still the subject of discussion.

J. R. WALKER, F.T.I., M.L.A., *Chairman.*

D. I. DUFF, *Vice-Chairman*

F. H. KIDD

F. LAW

J. A. MURRAY

G. M. WILSON

A. WRIGHT

J. J. B. SUTHERLAND,

*Deputy Secretary.*

ROYAL EXCHANGE,

CALCUTTA, 13th February 1942.

# STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS.

## INDIAN JUTE

*BALANCE SHEET as at*

LIABILITIES		Rs.	As	P		Rs.	As.	P.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT—								
As per last Account	...	...	1,10,805	10	4			
Add Surplus as per Income and Ex-	...	...	18,819	2	0			
penditure Account			1,20,624	12	4			
Less : Loss on revaluation...			3,351	9	0	1,26,273	3	4
SUNDRY DEPOSIT	...					878	13	2
SUNDRY CREDITORS	...					7,742	8	0
ADVANCE—								
Research Department						34,000	0	0
SUSPENSE—								
Trustees Deposit a/c			8,418	5	2			
Sand Bags : Chemical			20,553	10	0	37,971	15	2

TOTAL Rs.		2,01,866	7	8
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Examined and found correct,

LOVELOCK &amp; LEWES

CALCUTTA,  
The 12th day of February 1942.

Chartered Accountants.  
Registered Accountants.

# MILLS ASSOCIATION

31st December, 1941.

ASSETS.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
<b>MOTOR CARS—</b>						
As per last account (1 Car) ...	1,210	15	0			
Less : Depreciation written off ...	403	10	0			
				807	5	0
<b>OUTSTANDINGS—</b>						
Working Time agreement and special account ...	19,052	2	6			
Accrued Interest ...	859	6	0			
Advisor on Jute supplies ...	491	7	9			
Research Department ...	906	0	0			
Sundries ...	272	4	0			
				21,581	4	3
<b>SUNDRY ADVANCES—</b>						
Labour Officers scheme ...	66,034	6	6			
Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine : Endowment Fund ...	20	9	9			
Munitions Supply Section ...	18,111	2	0			
Sundries ...	170	0	0			
				84,336	2	3
<b>INVESTMENTS—</b>						
Rs. 82,500/- 5% Loan 1945/55 @ 108-0% ...	.....			80,400	6	0
<b>CASH—</b>						
In hand ...	12,845	0	0			
Less : Dues to several funds ...	2,112	9	10			
				10,732	6	2
<b>TOTAL Rs.</b> ...	.....			2,06,866	7	8

D. C. FAIRBAIRN

Secretary

W. A. M. WALKER

Chairman

# INDIAN JUTE

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE	Rs. A P.	Rs. A P.
To CONTRIBUTIONS TO BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ... ..	.....	31,800 0 0
„ Office Expenses—		
Printing ... ..	10,972 3 0	
Stamps ... ..	1,583 13 0	
Stationery ... ..	2,348 11 0	
Books and Newspapers ... ..	1,303 13 0	
Telephone ... ..	802 2 0	
Telegrams ... ..	1,453 8 0	
Petty Charges ... ..	3,137 1 0	
Travelling ... ..	928 2 0	
		22,529 5 0
„ Law charges ... ..	.....	1,049 11 0
„ General charges—		
Ordinary ... ..	56 10 0	
Special ... ..	22,272 12 0	
		22,320 6 0
„ Subscription to Employers Federation of India ... ..	.....	1,560 0 0
„ Technical Scholarships ... ..	.....	1,252 7 0
„ Tax under Bengal Finance Act 1939 ... ..	.....	60 0 0
„ Income Tax on Debenture Interest ... ..	.....	14 7 0
„ Mr. T. W. Scroggie's Salary and Expenses ... ..	.....	3,919 6 0
„ Statistician's Salary ... ..	.....	3,000 0 0
„ Books of marks—		
Expenses ... ..	4,197 3 0	
Less—Registration fees etc. ... ..	115 0 0	
		4,082 3 0
„ Audit Fee ... ..	.....	125 0 0
„ Depreciation (Motor Car) ... ..	.....	403 10 0
„ Surplus for the year carried to capital ... ..	.....	18,819 2 0
TOTAL ... ..		1,10,944 9 0

Examined and found correct.

LOVELOCK & LEWES,

CALCUTTA,  
The 12th February, 1942. }

Chartered Accountants,  
Registered Accountants.

# MILLS ASSOCIATION

*Account for the year ended 31st December 1941.*

INCOME	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Subscriptions		1,06,764 0 0
Interest		4,180 9 0

TOTAL	1,10,944 9 0
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D. C. FAIRBAIRN,  
*Secretary.*

W. A. M. WALKER,  
*Chairman.*



# INDIAN JUTE

## LABOUR OFFICER'S

### *BALANCE SHEET as at*

LIABILITIES	Rs. A P.	Rs. A. P.
<b>SUNDRY CREDITORS—</b>		
Sundries ... ..	2,180 8 0	
Due to General Account ... ..	63,844 14 6	
		66,034 6 6
		,
<b>TOTAL Rs. ... ..</b>	.....	66,034 6 6

### *INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT*

EXPENDITURE	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
To Labour Officers' Salaries ... ..	27,193 5 4	
„ Labour Officers' Staff Salaries and Wages ... ..	4,080 3 5	32,173 8 9
„ Conveyances ... ..		11,059 4 0
„ Personal Accident Insurance Premium		268 14 6
„ Workmen's Compensation Insurance Premium ... ..		50 0 0
„ Motor Car Insurance Premium ...		311 7 6
Office Rent ... ..		3,303 4 0
Printing ... ..		170 3 0
Stationery ... ..		280 7 6
Stamps ... ..		107 10 8
Telephone ... ..		1,624 12 0
Books & Newspapers ... ..		124 5 0
Sundries ... ..		526 7 0
Electric Charges ... ..		130 8 9
Charges General ... ..		743 14 6
Law Charges ... ..		262 8 0
Depreciation—on Motor Cars		1,871 0 0
<b>TOTAL Rs. ... ..</b>		53,098 2 9

Examined and found correct.

CALCUTTA, }  
 The 30th January 1942. } **LOVELOCK & LEWES,**  
*Chartered Accountants,  
Registered Accountants.*

**MILLS ASSOCIATION****SCHEME***31st December 1941.*

ASSETS		Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
MOTOR CARS—			
As per last Account	... ..	3,742 1 0	
Less—Depreciation written off	... ..	1,871 0 0	
			1,871 1 0
BALANCE OF ACCUMULATED EXPENSES TO BE LEVIED TO MEMBERS.			
As per last Account	... ..	11,065 2 9	
Expenses during the year	... ..	53,008 2 9	
			<u>64,163 5 6</u>
TOTAL Rs. ...			<u>66,034 6 6</u>

*for the year ended 31st December 1941.*

INCOME	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
By Deficit Carried forward		53,008 2 9

TOTAL Rs. ...	.....	53,008 2 9
D. C. FAIRBAIRN, Secretary	W. A. M. WALKER, Chairman	

**INDIAN JUTE****WORKING TIME AGREEMENT***BALANCE SHEET as at*

LIABILITIES				Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT—</b>					
As at 1st January 1941	...	...		.....	3,077 14 0
<b>SUNDRY CREDITORS—</b>					
Sundries	...	...	...	2,032 0 0	
Due to General Account	...	...	...	10,052 2 6	21,084 2 6
<b>CASH OVERDRAWN—</b>					
Due to Bengal Chamber of Commerce	...	...	...	1,070 8 6	
Less—Amount with Imperial Bank of India	...	...	...	188 2 0	1,491 6 6

TOTAL Rs.	...	.....	25,653 7 0
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Examined and found correct.

LOVELOCK &amp; LEWES,

CALCUTTA,  
The 22nd January, 1942. }

Chartered Accountants,  
Registered Accountants.

**MILLS ASSOCIATION****AND SPECIAL ACCOUNT.***31st December, 1941.*

ASSETS.				Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
<b>MOTOR CARS—</b>									
As per last account	...	...		4,507	3	0			
Less—Depreciation	...	...		2,298	9	0			
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year recoverable from the members</b>							2,298	10	0
...	...	...	...				23,354	13	0

TOTAL Rs	...	.....	25,653	7	0
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**D. C. FAIRBAIRN***Secretary***W. A. M. WALKER***Chairman*

## INDIAN JUTE

WORKING TIME AGREEMENT  
*REVENUE ACCOUNT for the*

EXPENDITURE.		Rs.	As.	P.
To	INSPECTORS' SALARIES AND CAR-ALLOWANCES	16,783	5	0
„	Conveyances ... ..	668	6	0
„	Contribution to Association Secretarial Fees	1,200	0	0
„	Remuneration of the Trustees ... ..	750	0	0
„	Personal Accident Insurance Premium ...	268	14	6
„	Workmen's Compensation Insurance Premium	50	0	0
„	Motor Car Insurance Premium ... ..	311	7	6
„	Motor Vehicles Taxes ... ..	105	0	0
„	Law Charges ... ..	558	5	0
„	Travelling ... ..	978	4	0
„	Sealing of looms ... ..	1	4	0
„	Sundry Expenses ... ..	31	6	0
„	Depreciation Motor Cars ... ..	2,208	9	0

Total Rs. 24,004 13 0

We have audited the above Statement of Income and Expenditure on the Working Agreement and Special Account for the year ended 31st December 1941 and have found it correct. In our opinion the costs incurred by the Committee are proper and reasonable according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the records of the Association.

LOVELOCK & LEWES,

CALCUTTA,  
The 22nd January, 1942. }

Chartered Accountants  
Registered Accountants.

**MILLS ASSOCIATION****AND SPECIAL ACCOUNT***year ended 31st December, 1941.*

INCOME				Rs. As. P.
By Subscriptions ( "B" Members )	...	...	...	650 0 0
„ Deficit in Revenue transferred to Balance sheet recoverable from the members	...	...	...	23,354 13 0

Total Rs.	24,004 13 0
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D. C. FAIRBAIRN,  
*Secretary.*

W. A. M. WALKER,  
*Chairman.*

# INDIAN JUTE RESEARCH

## *REVENUE ACCOUNT for the*

EXPENDITURE.			Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
<b>A.—LABORATORY (16, Old Court House Street)</b>								
Establishment	...	...	30,474	3	9			
Laboratory Stores and Materials	...	...	8,088	13	9			
Office Rent	...	...	7,200	0	0			
Insurance	...	...	767	6	0			
Office Stationery and requisites	...	...	572	13	0			
Books and Journals	...	...	1,810	12	4			
Repairs	...	...	245	14	0			
Gas, Electricity and water Charges...			2,142	13	0			
Travelling	...	...	1,249	10	6			
Telephone	...	...	549	5	0			
Postages and Telegrams	...	...	1,748	7	9			
Sundry and Petty Expenses			1,351	5	6			
Rotproofing of Textile Sand Bags			6,312	12	0			
<b>DEPRECIATION WRITTEN OFF :—</b>								
Furniture and Fittings	...	...	3,004	6	9			
Scientific apparatus	...	...	7,728	5	10			
Motor Car	...	...	1,733	5	4			
Contribution to Provident Fund			9,516	8	0			
						93,490	14	6
<b>B.—GENERAL INCLUDING LONDON RESEARCH WORK.</b>								
(1) Dr. Barker's' Honorarium £650			8,696	12	0			
Laboratory Assistant	...	...	3,365	13	5			

Carried over

12,062 9 5

93,490 14 6

**MILLS ASSOCIATION.  
DEPARTMENT**

*year ended 31st December 1941.*

INCOME.		Rs.	As.	P.
LEVY ON JUTE RESEARCH SUBSCRIBERS		1,79,158	5	0
INTEREST ON DEBENTURES	...	68	5	0

Carried over

1,79,222 10 0



## INDIAN JUTE

## RESEARCH

## REVENUE ACCOUNT for the

EXPENDITURE—Contd.		Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Brought forward	...	12,002	9	5	93,409	14	6
(2) London Research Work—							
(a) Offices Expenses	... ..	3,182	0	4			
(b) Clerical Assistance	... ..	6,389	3	4			
(c) Postages, Stationery etc.	... ..	3,558	12	7			
(d) Travelling Expenses	... ..	6,523	0	8			
(e) Sundries and Petty Expenses	... ..	4,847	5	9			
(3) Fees for Outside Research Work	...	1,174	15	10			
(4) Purchase of Experimental Materials.		2,923	6	1			
(5) Books and Journals	... ..	134	0	9			
(6) Printing	Rs. As. P. 867 13 9						
Jute abstract	7474 9 9	8,342	7	6			
(7) Office Stationery and requisites	...	580	14	0			
(9) Legal Audit and such charges	...	1,641	13	0			
(10) Sundries and Petty charges	..	365	9	0			
Contribution to Secretarial Fees	...	6,000	0	0			
Income Tax on Debenture interest.		32	14	0			
		57,759	0	3			
Less—Sundry receipts	... ..	730	13	3	57,028	3	0
Surplus for the year Carried to Capital	... ..				28,694	8	6
TOTAL					179,222	10	0

Examined and found correct.

 CALCUTTA, }  
 The 16th February, 1942.

 LOVELOCK & LEWES,  
 Chartered Accountants,  
 Registered Accountants.

# MILLS ASSOCIATION.

## DEPARTMENT

*year ended 31st December 1941.—Contd.*

INCOME— <i>Contd.</i>		Rs.	As.	P.
Brought Forward	...	1,79,222	10	0

TOTAL Rs. ... | 1,79,222 10 0

D. C. FAIRBRAIN,  
*Secretary.*

W. A. M. WALKER,  
*Chairman.*



# **APPENDICES.**

**COMMITTEE.**

**LIST OF MEMBERS.**

**LIST OF MILLS WITH NUMBER OF LOOMS.**

**LIST OF CHAIRMEN FROM THE INAUGURATION  
OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**STATISTICS.**

**CONTRACT FORMS.**



## Indian Jute Mills Association

### COMMITTEE FOR 1941.

#### *Chairman :*

1. MR. W. A. M. WALKER, M.L.A. *Messrs. Barry & Co.*

#### *Vice-Chairman :*

2. „ J. H. BURDER ... *Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.*

#### *Members :*

3. MR. A. P. BENTHALL ... *Messrs. Bird & Co.*  
4. „ H. D. CUMBERBATCH ... „ *Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.*  
5. „ G. M. GARRIE ... „ *Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.*  
6. „ K. P. GOENKA ... „ *Ramdutt Ramkissendass.*  
7. „ K. D. JALAN ... „ *Soorajmull Nagarmull.*  
8. „ S. R. KANORIA ... „ *Rai Mukhran Luchmi-  
narain Bahadur.*  
9. „ J. R. WALKER, F.T.I., „ *McLeod & Co., Ltd.*

M.L.A.

# Indian Jute Mills Association.

## "A" MEMBERS.

*List of Members corrected to 31st December, 1941.*

<b>Name of Mills</b>	<b>Managing Agents etc.</b>
Adamjee Jute Mills, Ltd.	Messrs. Adamjee Hajec Dawood & Co., Ltd. Managing Agents, 5, Dalhousie Square.
Khardah Co., Ltd.	Messrs. Anderson Wright & Co. Managing Agents, 7, Wellesley Place.
The Agarpara Co., Ltd.	Messrs. B. N. Elias & Co., Ltd. Managing Agents, Norton Buildings, 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner.
Gourepore Co., Ltd.	Messrs. Barry & Co., Secretaries and Agents, 2, Fairlie Place.
Nuddea Mills Co., Ltd.	Messrs. Barry & Co., Managing Agents, 2, Fairlie Place.
Alexandra Jute Mills Ltd. ...	Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 2, Hare Street.
Alliance Jute Mills Co., Ltd. ...	
Craig Jute Mills Ltd. ..	
Waverley Jute Mills Co., Ltd.	
Auckland Jute Co., Ltd. ..	Messrs. Bird & Co., Managing Agents, Chartered Bank Buildings.
Clive Mills Co., Ltd. ...	
Dalhousie Jute Co., Ltd. ..	
Lansdowne Jute Co., Ltd. ..	
Lawrence Jute Co., Ltd. ..	
Northbrook Jute Co., Ltd. ..	
Standard Jute Co., Ltd. ..	
Union Jute Co., Ltd. ..	

Birla Jute Manufacturing Co., Ld.	Messrs. Birla Bros., Ld., Managing Agents, 8, Royal Exchange Place.
The Angus Co., Ld. ...	
Samnuggur Jute Factory Co., Ld. ...	Messrs. Duff Thomas & Co., Ld., Managing Agents, 2 & 3, Clive Row.
Titaghur Jute Factory Co., Ld.	
Victoria Jute Co., Ld. ...	
Anglo-India Jute Mills Co., Ld. ...	Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Ld., Managing Agents, 101, Clive Street.
Champdany Jute Co., Ld. ...	{ Messrs. Finlay James & Co., Ld., Managing Agents, 1, Clive Street.
Wellington Jute Mills ...	
Societie Generale Industrielle de Chandernagore ...	{ Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co., Managing Agents, 8, Clive Street.
Hooghly Mills Co., Ld. ...	
Kinnison Jute Mills Co., Ld.	{ Messrs. Heilgers F. W. & Co., Managing Agents, Chartered Bank Buildings.
Naihati Jute Mills Co., Ld. ...	
Barnagore Jute Factory Co., Ld.	Messrs. Henderson George & Co., Ld., Agents, 101/1, Clive Street.
Bally Jute Co., Ld.	Messrs. Henderson George & Co., Ld., Managing Agents, 101/1, Clive Street.
Howrah Mills Co., Ld.	
Kamarhatty Co., Ld.	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co., Managing Agents, 4, Clive Row.
Kanknarrah Co., Ld.	
Reliance Jute Mills Co., Ld.	
Fort Gloster Jute Manufactur- ing Co., Ld. ...	{ Messrs. Kettlewell Bullen & Co., Ld., Managing Agents, 21, Strand Road.
Fort William Jute Co., Ld. ...	



India Jute Co., Ltd.	...	{ Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Managing Agents, 16, Strand Road.
Megna Mills Co., Ltd.	...	
Empire Jute Co., Ltd.	...	{ Messrs. McLeod & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 28, Dalhousie Square.
Kelvin Jute Co., Ltd.		
Presidency Jute Mills Co., Ltd.		
Soorah Jute Mills Co., Ltd.	...	
Nellimarla Jute Mills Ltd.	...	
Chitavalsah Jute Mills Co., Ltd.		
Ganges Manufacturing Co., Ld.	...	{ Messrs. Macneill & Co., Managing Agents, 2, Fairlie Place.
Rameshwara Jute Mills, Ld.	...	
Premchand Jute Mills, Ld.	...	Raja Janokinath Roy & Bro., Ld., Managing Agents. 102, Sova Bazar Street.
Hukumchand Jute Mills, Ld.	...	Messrs. Ramdutt Ramkissendass, Managing Agents, 145, Muktaram Babu Street.
The Bengal Jute Mill Co., Ld.		Messrs. Soorajmull Nagarmull, Managing Agents, 61, Harrison Road.
Albion Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	{ Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 8, Clive Row.
Belvedere Jute Mills Co., Ld.		
Budge-Budge Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	
Caledonian Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	
Cheviot Mills Co., Ld.	...	
Delta Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	
Hastings Mill, Ld.	...	
Lothian Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	
National Co., Ld.	...	
New Central Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	
Orient Jute Mills Co., Ld.	...	

**"B" MEMBERS.**

<b>Name of Mills</b>	<b>Managing Agents etc.</b>
Kedarnath Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	... Messrs. Babulall & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 13, Sayed Salley Lane.
Shree Gouri Shankar Jute Mills, Ltd.	Messrs. Bhagat & Co., Managing Agents, P4, New Jagannath Ghat Road.
Bharat Jute Mills, Ltd.	... Messrs. Dass Brothers, Managing Agents, 30, Strand Road.
Calcutta Jute Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	... Messrs. Dayaram & Sons, Managing Agents, 3, Tara Chand Dutt Street.
Naskarpara Jute Mills Co., Ltd.	... Messrs. Howrah Trading Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 144/145, Old Ghusri Road, Howrah or 8A, Beniatola Lane.
Maheswari Devi Jute Mills, Ltd.	... Messrs. Khaitan Bagla & Co., Managing Agents, Harrisganj, Railbazar, Cawnpore.
Nafar Chandra Jute Mills, Ltd.	... Messrs. N. C. Kolay & Sons, Managing Agents, 171, Bowbazar Street.
Luxmi Jute Mills, Ltd.	... Messrs. More Brothers Ltd., Managing Agents, 5, Clive Row.

- Raigarh Jute Mills, Ltd. ... Messrs. Nandlall Kishorilall,  
Managing Agents,  
Raigarh.
- Shree Mahadeo Jute Mills ... Messrs. Pratapmull Rameshwar  
Proprietor,  
46, Strand Road.
- Katihar Jute Mills, Ltd. ... Messrs. Radha Kissen Chamaria,  
Managing Agents,  
1, Cullen Place, Howrah.,
- Shree Luchminarain Jute Manu-  
facturing Co., Ltd. ... Rai Mukhram Luchminarain  
Bahadur,  
95, Clive Street.
- Shree Hanuman Jute Mills ... Messrs. Soorajmull Nagarmull,  
Proprietors,  
61, Harrison Road.

# INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION.

*List of Mills with number of looms corrected to 28th February, 1942.*

Name of Mill.	No. of Mills.	Total looms.	Hessian looms.	Sacking looms.	Group Totals.	Managing Agents, Secretaries or Proprietors.	% age vote.
Anglo India, Upper Do.	1	592	368	224	2,561	Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 101, Olive Street.	3.03
Do. Middle	1	898	565	333			
Do. Lower	1	512	298	214			
Do. Jagatdal	1	559	358	201	2,014	{ Macneill & Co., Managing Agents, 2, Fairlie Place,	3.08
Bansberia	2	1,709	1,001	708			
Rameshwara	1	305	...	305			
Khardah	2	1,530	914	616	1,530	Anderson Wright & Co., Managing Agents, 7, Wellesley Place.	2.34
Albion	1	498	339	159	8,032	Andrew Yule & Co, Ltd., Managing Agents, 8, Clive Row.	12.27
Belvedere	1	820	601	219			
Budge Budge	2	991	552	439			
Caledonian	1	616	371	245			
Cheviot	1	530	430	50			
Delta	1	779	458	321			
Hastings	1	1,078	661	417			
Lothian	1	558	341	217			
National	1	852	573	279			
New Central	1	709	439	270			
Orient	1	601	551	50			
Carried over	21	14,137	8,870	5,267	14,137		

Name of Mill.	No. of Mills.	Total looms.	Hessian looms.	Sacking looms.	Group Totals.	Managing Agents, Secretaries or Proprietors.	%age vote.
Brought forward	21	14,137	8,870	5,267	14,137		
Auckland	1	810	480	330	6,859	Bird & Co., Managing Agents, Chartered Bank Buildings.	10.48
Clive	2	969	552	417			
Dalhousie	1	766	454	312			
Lansdowne	1	931	539	392			
Lawrence	1	840	462	378			
Northbrook	1	567	353	214	6,334	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd. Managing Agents, 2 & 3, Olive Row.	9.69
Standard	1	650	381	269			
Union (North)	1	519	306	213			
Do. (South)	1	807	440	367			
Angus	1	1,196	890	306			
Samnuggur (North)	1	1,057	804	253	6,334	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd. Managing Agents, 2 & 3, Olive Row.	9.69
Do. (South)	2	956	705	251			
Titaghur No. 1	1	816	510	306			
Do. " 2	1	978	778	200			
Victoria	2	1,331	1,012	319			

Howrah	...	...	3	1,940	1,234	706	6,540	Jardine Skinner & Co., Managing Agents, 4, Clive Row.	10-01
Kamarhatty	...	...	2	1,797	1,250	547			
Kanknarrah	...	...	2	1,527	1,239	288			
Reliance	...	...	1	1,276	924	352			
Chitavalasah	...	...	{	500	124	376	2,820	McLeod & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 28, Dalhousie Square.	4-30
Empire	...	...		500	295	205			
Kelvin	...	...		763	394	309			
Presidency	...	...		405	238	162			
Soorah	...	...	{	401	291	200	2,848	George Henderson & Co., Ltd., Agents, Do., Managing Agents, 101-1, Clive Street.	4-36
Nellimarla	...	...		316	100	216			
Barnagore	...	...	2	1,889	1,127	762	2,886	Kettlewell Bullen & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 21, Strand Road.	4-43
Bally	...	...	1	959	659	300			
Fort Gloster	...	...	3	1,884	1,098	786	2,065	F. W. Heilgers & Co., Managing Agents, Chartered Bank Buildings.	3-16
Fort William	...	...	2	1,014	633	381			
Kinnison	...	...	2	1,250	675	575	1,400	James Finlay & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 1, Clive Street.	2-14
Naihati	...	...	1	815	434	381			
Champdany	...	...	1	544	313	231	1,327	Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co., Managing Agents, 8, Clive Street.	2-03
Wellington	...	...	1	856	448	408			
Hooghly	...	...	1	720	466	254	47,228	Carried over	
Gondalpara	...	...	1	607	409	198			
			68	47,228	29,797	17,431	47,228		

Name of Mill.	No. of Mills.	Total looms.	Hessian looms.	Sacking looms.	Group Totals.	Managing Agents, Secretaries and Proprietor	% age vote.
Brought forward	68	47,228	29,797	17,431	47,228		
Alexandra	1	446	296	150	2,571	Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 2, Hare Street.	3.93
Alliance	2	1,284	797	467			
C. aig	1	386	242	154			
Waverley	1	465	306	159			
India	2	1,076	811	265	2,084	{ Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co., Managing Agents, 16, Strand Road.	3.19
Megna	2	1,008	840	168			
Gourepore	2	1,384	962	432	2,486	{ Barry & Co., Secretaries and Agents. Do. Managing Agents, 2, Fairlie Place.	3.80
Nuddea	2	1,092	644	448			
Birla	1	1,373	982	391	1,373	Birla Bros., Ltd., Managing Agents, 8, Royal Exchange Place.	2.10
Hukumchand	3	2,272	1,525	747	2,272	Randutt Ramkissendass, Managing Agents, 145, Nuktaram Babu Street, More Brothers Ltd., Managing Agents, 7C, Clive Row.	3.48
Luxmi	1	450	358	92	450		0.69
Premchand	1	604	364	240	604	Raja Janakinath Roy & Bro., Ltd., Managing Agents, 102, Sova Bazar Street.	0.92

Shree Gourishankar	...	...	1	176	152	24	176	Messrs. Bhagat & Co. Managing Agents, 10, Clive Row, 2nd Floor.	0-27
Adamjee	...	...	1	911	703	208	911	Messrs. Adamjee Hajee Dawood & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 5, Dalhousie Square, East.	1-39
Agarpara	...	...	1	879	553	326	879	Messrs. B. N. Elias & Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, Norton Buildings, 1&2 Old Court House, Corner.	1-34
Shree Mahadeo	...	...	1	170	136	34	170	Messrs. Partabnull Ramesh- war, Proprietors, 46, Strand Road.	0-26
Kedernath	...	...	1	220	219	1	220	Babulall and Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 13, Sayed Salley Lane.	0-34
Nafar Chandra	...	...	1	145	92	53	145	Messrs. N. C. Kolay & Sons, Managing Agents, 171, Bowbazar St.	0-22
Bharat	...	...	1	220	164	56	220	Messrs. Dass Brothers, Managing Agents, 30, Strand Road.	0-34
Calcutta Jute Mfg.	...	...	1	502	340	162	502	Messrs. Dayaram & Sons, Managing Agents, 4, Lyons Range.	0-77
Carried over	...	96	62,201	40,283	22,008	62,201			



Name of Mill.	No. of Mills.	Total looms.	Hessian looms.	Sacking looms.	Group Totals	Managing Agents, Agents, Secretaries or Proprietors.	% age vote.
Brought forward	96	62,291	40,283	22,008	62,291		
Shree Luchminarain	1	500	375	125	500	Rai Mukhram Luchminarain Bahadur, Managing Agents, 65, Clive Street.	0.76
Naskarpara	1	425	333	92	425	Messrs. Howrah Trading Co., Ltd., Managing Agents, 8A, Beniatola Lane.	0.65
Shree Hanuman	1	980	803	177	980	Messrs. Soorajmull Nagarmull, Proprietors	2.42
Bengal	1	600	400	200	600	Do. Managing Agents, 61, Harrison Road.	
Raigarh	1	150	25	125	150	Messrs. Nandlall Kishorilall, Raigarh, C. P.	0.23
Katihar	1	220	44	176	220	Messrs. Radha Kissen I, Cullen Place, Howrah.	0.34
Maheawari Devi	1	220	35	184	220	Messrs. Khaitan Bagla & Co., Managing Agents, Harrisganj, Raibazar, Cawnpore.	0.34
Total	103	65,386	42,298	23,087	65,386	-	

## INDIAN JUTE MILLS ASSOCIATION.

*List of Chairmen from the inauguration of the Association.*

CHAIRMEN.	FIRM.	DATE OF ELECTION.
MR. J. J. J. KESWICK	... Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co.	... 10th November, 1884
" JAMES HENDERSON	... " George Henderson & Co.	11th February, 1886.
" ROBERT WILLIAMSON	... " Finlay Muir & Co.	... 10th January, 1887.
" GEO. CHEPETHAM	... " George Henderson & Co.	26th February, 1890.
" ALLAN ARTHUR	... " Finlay Muir & Co.	... 17th April, 1891.
" GEORGE LYELL	... " Macneill & Co.	... 7th April, 1892.
" GEORGE N. NAIRN	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 4th March, 1895.
" GEORGE LYELL	... " Macneill & Co.	... 19th March, 1896.
" W. B. COLVILLE	... " Bird & Co.	... 16th March, 1897.
" D. C. BLAIR	... " Finlay Muir & Co.	... 19th April, 1899.
" JOHN NICOLL	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 30th March, 1900.
" W. S. MALCOLM	... " George Henderson & Co.	18th March, 1902.
" JOHN NICOLL	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 20th February, 1903.
" ARCHY BIRKMYRE	... " Birkmyre Bros.	... 26th February, 1904.
" JOHN NICOLL	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 27th February, 1905.
" ARCHY BIRKMYRE	... " Birkmyre Bros.	... 23rd February, 1906.
" A. WIGHTON	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 12th February, 1907.
" J. B. STRAIN	... " Bird & Co.	... 25th February, 1908.
" ARCHY BIRKMYRE	... " Birkmyre Bros.	... 24th February, 1909.
" R. H. A. GRESSON	... " Jardine, Skinner & Co.	... 23rd February, 1910.
" J. ROBERTSON	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 22nd February, 1911.
" J. MACKENZIE	... " Macneill & Co.	... 21st February, 1912.
" A. R. MURRAY	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 19th February, 1913.
" F. R. S. CHARLES	... " George Henderson & Co.	24th February, 1914.
" W. ROSS SMITH	... " Bird & Co.	... 27th January, 1915.
THE HON'BLE MR. ARCHY BIRKMYRE	... " Birkmyre Bros.	... 26th January, 1916.
MR. A. R. MURRAY	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 24th January, 1917.
" A. R. MURRAY	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 23rd January, 1918.
" A. R. MURRAY	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 29th January, 1919.
" G. F. ROSE	... " Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	24th September, 1919.
" G. F. ROSE	... " Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	27th January, 1920.
" H. M. PEAT	... " Bird & Co.	... 30th April, 1920.
" D. P. MCKENZIE, M.L.C.	... " Duncan Brothers & Co.	... 26th January, 1921.
" R. N. BAND, M.L.C.	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 25th January, 1922.
" G. F. ROSE, M.L.C.	... " Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	... 26th January, 1923.
" R. N. BAND, M.L.C.	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 25th January, 1924.
" R. N. BAND, M.L.C.	... " Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	... 23rd January, 1925.
" J. SIME	... " Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	22nd January, 1926.
" E. B. WILSON C.I.E. M.L.C.	... " Birkmyre Bros.	... 21st January, 1927.
" G. F. ROSE	... " Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	1st February, 1927.
" J. W. A. SIMPSON	... " Bird & Co.	... 25th January 1928.

*List of Chairmen from the inauguration of the Association—contd.*

CHAIRMEN.		FIRM.	DATE OF ELECTION.
MR. E. G. ABBOTT	... Messrs.	Macnoill & Co.	... 16th March, 1928.
R. B. LAIRD, M.L.C.	... „	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd....	25th January, 1929.
R. B. LAIRD, M.L.C.	... „	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd. ...	24th January, 1930.
D. J. LECKIE	... „	James Finlay & Co., Ltd....	30th January, 1931.
J. SIME ...	... „	Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.	29th January, 1932.
H. H. BURN	... „	McLeod & Co.	... 24th January, 1933.
H. H. BURN	... „	McLeod & Co.	... 30th January, 1934.
H. H. BURN	... „	McLeod & Co.	... 30th January, 1935.
H. H. BURN	... „	McLeod & Co.	... 31st January, 1936.
H. H. BURN	... „	McLeod & Co., Ltd.	... 19th February, 1937
P. S. MACDONALD	... „	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd.	11th March, 1938.
P. S. MACDONALD	... „	Thomas Duff & Co., Ltd. ...	28th February, 1939.
W. A. M. WALKER, M.L.A.,	„	Barry & Co.	... 16th February, 1940
W. A. M. WALKER, M.L.A.	„	Barry & Co.	... 21st February, 1941.
W. A. M. WALKER, C.B.E.,			
M.L.A.	„	Barry & Co.	... 20th February, 1942.

# **CORRESPONDENCE.**



**LABOUR LEGISLATION: (c) *Protection of labour  
against the illegal realisation of debts.***

**Circular No. 34-D dated 12th February, 1941**

It has long been recognised that one of the most effective means of improving the condition of Indian labour would be to regulate money lending and to provide legal safeguards against the methods practised by money-lenders in the realisation of sums lent to workmen. Recent legislation in Bengal has dealt with both aspects of this problem and I am to draw the attention of members to the present provisions of the law dealing with the recovery of debts and to ask for the co-operation of mill authorities in securing their effective enforcement.

2. Broadly speaking it is now an offence either to molest a workman for the purpose of recovering or attempting to recover a debt or to loiter near his place of employment or the place where he receives his wages with the object of recovering a debt. In both cases the offence is punishable with imprisonment or fine and since it is cognisable the Police can arrest without warrant if there is a suspicion of an offence having been committed or if information is given to them. The case of molestation is covered under the Bengal Money Lenders Act, that of loitering under the Bengal Workmen's Protection (Amendment) Act and the following gives a brief description of the particular provisions of this legislation as it affects mill labour.

(a) *The Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1940.*—Under Section 41 of this Act whoever molests or abets molestation of a debtor for the purpose of recovering or attempting to recover debts, shall be punished with imprisonment or fine or with both. Molestation covers a wide field; the Act states that a person shall be deemed to molest another person who with intent to cause such other person to abstain from doing any act which he has a right to do, or to do any act which he has a right to abstain from doing,

(i) obstructs or uses violence to or intimidates such other person, or

(ii) persistently follows him from place to place or interferes with, deprives him of or hinders him in the use of any property owned or used by him, or

(iii) loiters at or near a house or building or buildings where the person resides or works or receives his pay or wages or happens to be.

(b) *The Bengal Workmen's Protection (Amendment) Act, 1940*.—In this Act any person who loiters at or near any place where a workman works or receives his wages in a manner or in circumstances indicating that he is so loitering with a view to recover any debt from such workman shall be punished with fine or imprisonment.

3. The provisions of these Acts therefore give protection to workmen from being pestered or molested or assaulted with the object of recovering debts either at their place of work, at the place where they receive their wages, in their lines or anywhere else. While it is understood that already as a result of the promulgation of this legislation the activities of the money-lenders have been considerably restrained, it is believed that in some cases money-lenders or their agents enter mill compounds on pay days and that numbers of them are often found loitering outside mills. It is desirable in these circumstances that wherever possible complaints should be made to the Police with the double object of having prosecutions made and of bringing to the notice of the labour the protection given to them by law. The Association's Labour Officers have been instructed to give every assistance to Managers in this matter but if instances are brought to the notice of Managers it should be remembered that all that is necessary for the Police to take action is to send information to the nearest Police Thana in writing or by telephone giving the names of :—

(1) the money-lenders or their agents suspected

(2) the workman pestered, and

(3) the names of witnesses to the occurrence.

The Police and the Civil Authorities are extending the utmost co-operation and the necessary action will be taken by them on

any complaints that are lodged as explained above. The Committee of the Association are desirous that every effort should be made to render the provisions of this legislation effective and they trust that in this, mill authorities will give them every support. For instance, you might care to furnish to each member of your supervisory staff a copy of this circular accompanied by instructions to aid in the achievement of its object and to explain to the sirdars and other responsible members of the labour force their precise position under the law as herein described. Additional copies of this circular are available for this purpose and can be obtained on written application to me.

4. It is also been suggested that of aid in this matter, members might care to consider the establishment of co-operative banks for their workers, registering them under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act of 1912.

## **THE FACTORIES ACT AND THE RULES THERE- UNDER : PAYMENT OF OVERTIME.**

**Circular No. 324-D. dated 9th December, 1941.**

I have had one or two request from members for guidance in the matter of overtime payments to workers especially when hours of work are greater than 60 per week in the mill and/or factory.

The subject has been discussed with the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, and I reproduce for your information and guidance a note which has been prepared by him on the manner in which overtime payments should be calculated.

**Note by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal.**

Interpretation of Clauses (1) and (2) of Section 47 of the  
Factories Act.



Where the total hours worked in a week are :—

(1) *54 or less—*

All hours in excess of 10 per day to be paid at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times rates, and the remainder at ordinary rates.

(2) *More than 54 but not more than 60—*

(a) All hours in excess of 10 per day to be paid at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times rates.

(b) Deduct the hours worked in excess of 10 per day from the total hours worked, then *with respect to the balance* :—

(i) if it is *54 or less* it is paid at ordinary rates;

(ii) if it is *more than 54* the hours in excess of 54 are paid at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times rates and 54 hours are paid at ordinary rates.

(3) *More than 60—*

(a) All hours in excess of 10 per day are paid at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times rates.

(b) Deduct the hours worked in excess of 10 per day from the total hours worked then *with respect to the balance* :—

(i) if it is *54 or less* it is paid at ordinary rates;

(ii) if it is *more than 54 but not more than 60* the hours in excess of 54 are paid at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times rates and 54 hours are paid at ordinary rates;

(iii) if it is *more than 60*, the hours in excess of 60 are paid at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times rates; the hours in excess of 54 but not more than 60 (6 hours) are paid at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times rates, and 54 hours are paid at ordinary rates.

## EXAMPLES.

Sunday ... ..	...	...
Monday ... 13	16	11
Tuesday ... 10	10	10
Wednesday 10	12	10
Thursday ... 10	12	10
Friday ... 10	7	10
Saturday ... 4	...	6
Total ... 57	57	57
3 hours @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 54 hours @ ordinary rates.	10 hours @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 47 hours @ ordinary rates.	1 hour @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 2 hours @ $1\frac{1}{4}$ times 54 hours @ ordinary rates
Sunday ... ..	...	10
Monday ... 14	12	12
Tuesday .. 14	12	10
Wednesday 14	10	10
Thursday ... 6	10	10
Friday ... 6	10	10
Satrduay ... 6	7	8
Total ... 60	61	70
12 hours @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 48 hours @ ordinary rates	4 hours @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 3 hours @ $1\frac{1}{4}$ times 54 hours @ ordinary rates	2 plus 8 = 10 hours @ $1\frac{1}{2}$ times 6 hours @ $1\frac{1}{4}$ times 54 hours @ ordinary rates

## THE NATIONAL SERVICE (TECHNICAL PERSONNEL) ORDINANCE 1940.

**Circular No. 330-D dated 12th December, 1941.**

There have been so many references made to me by members regarding their position under this Ordinance that it has been deemed best to attempt a brief recapitulation of the salient points and problems entailed. It is hoped by this circular that the duties and obligations of mill managers, technical personnel, and the Tribunal towards each other and towards the Central Government, will be better appreciated and understood as part of the effort made by the nation to induce a successful issue of all war activities. In Circular No. 50-D dated 1st March, 1941, some of the important points were clearly stated: Labour Officers also have explained them under my instructions in personal interviews to mill managers. There is yet some misapprehension in regard to Section 13 in particular and a few others, which it is the aim of this circular to clarify.

2. *Brief explanation of the terms of the Ordinance and its implications.*—This Ordinance gives power to the Central Government to control the employment and distribution of technical personnel in British India.

*Objects.*—A. The sole intention of this Ordinance is to ensure the steady inflow of skilled personnel into Munitions Factories and other essential industries in India engaged on work necessary for the efficient prosecution of the war. From the outset it should be clearly understood by those who have apprehended some interference with their business or their economic position that while they will certainly be called upon to make some sacrifices, their interests are otherwise safeguarded to the fullest possible extent.

B. This Ordinance has two main principles which it has been the endeavour of the Tribunal to translate into practice:—

- (a) that all the technical personnel for war work be tapped and organised; and
- (b) that these men be transferred to work in notified factories under the Ordinance, the Tribunal assuring

themselves, however, that in this transfer (i) the economic position of the men is not adversely affected, and (ii) no undue hardships in the maintenance of other forms of industrial life are imposed.

3. *The guiding principles in the working of this Ordinance* are (a) to ensure that the skilled personnel available in each area is distributed in the most effective way possible, (b) to avoid as far as possible interference with personnel already engaged on work which is likely to assist directly the efficient prosecution of the war, while drawing liberally on personnel employed on work which is not of national importance and (c) to ensure as far as possible that the economic position of persons taken into the national service does not suffer by reason of such service. For an effective working of this Ordinance it is necessary for industrial undertakings and their employees alike to accept the principle of dilution of labour just as it has been accepted in the U. K. This acceptance will involve the promotion of semi-skilled men to skilled posts and of unskilled men to semi-skilled posts and to this extent cause the undertakings concerned some inconvenience and possible loss of efficiency. Personal inconvenience, however, cannot be accepted as a ground for exemption from national service.

4. *Application*—The Ordinance applies to all technical personnel specified in the schedule to the Ordinance, who are over the age of eighteen and under the age of fifty years and are Indian British subjects. An exception is made in the case of those serving in His Majesty's Forces. (European British subjects are not governed by this Ordinance). Central control is maintained by the Government of India in the Department of Labour who have powers under the Ordinance designed to bring out a measure of co-ordinated action in India as a whole. Efforts have been made to place this Ordinance on an all-India basis and to have it so administered that the Central Government would act as a co-ordinating and guiding medium, thus avoiding anomalies in the application of the legislation and ensuring that all sources of technical personnel are tapped. By these means and by working in the closest conjunction with the Defence and Supply Departments it is thought that adequate protection has been provided against inter-provincial migration of personnel to the detriment

of industry and in opposition to the intentions and objects of the Ordinance.

5. Under the principal provisions of the Ordinance, the Central Government was empowered—

- (i) to declare any factory which is engaged in the production of munitions or other war supplies or which in the opinion of the Central Government, is likely to assist the efficient prosecution of the war, to be a factory engaged on work of national importance, such factory thereupon being a notified factory, and,
- (ii) to constitute for such areas and in such places as it thinks fit, national service labour tribunals.

6. *Powers and duties of the Tribunal*—Under the powers given by the Ordinance a Tribunal may :—

- (a) summon the owner or manager of any industrial undertaking or any employee of such undertaking to appear before it and furnish such information as it may require, and
- (b) authorise one of its members to enter upon and inspect any premises occupied by such undertaking and call for any information whether documentary or otherwise which appears to it to be necessary,
- (c) require the owner or manager of any industrial undertaking other than a notified factory to release such technical personnel as it may specify for employment in the national service in notified factories, and
- (d) direct technical personnel, who are either unemployed or are not already employed in a notified factory, to undertake employment in the national service in any notified factory specified in the order.

As the Tribunal has the power of a civil court for the purposes of recording evidence, enforcing attendance of witnesses and so on, it is empowered to take steps to ascertain what technical personnel is employed in any undertaking (which may include even the smallest workshops and manufacturing concerns) whether such personnel is suitable for employment in Ordinance

and/or other notified factories and what is the capacity of the undertaking concerned to release such personnel for employment in the national service. For this purpose, the Tribunal may if necessary, summon employers and employees to appear before it personally and may enter the premises of an undertaking to inspect it. To enable the Tribunal to distribute the demand for personnel fairly among all factories that are in a position to supply it, the Tribunal must make some sort of census of the personnel available of the particular class most likely to be required. It need not therefore be assumed that an enquiry from the Tribunal as to the personnel employed in an undertaking necessarily means that that personnel will be called up for national service. The Tribunal has power to direct the transfer of any particular personnel employed in an undertaking other than a notified factory to be released from that employment and enter employment in a notified factory, but before making such directions the Tribunal is required to hold a summary enquiry at which the objections, if any, of the employer and employee will be duly heard and considered. The power to transfer personnel from one notified factory to another can only be exercised by the Central Government. Tribunals make the fullest use of the unemployed markets and schemes have been initiated for the training of additional personnel in factories, as it was clearly recognised that once India's productive programme expanded, the existing sources for skilled personnel for war work would soon be exhausted. All technical personnel are to be taken through the Tribunal as there must be an authority dealing with the totality of technical personnel, no matter from what source it is derived, in that this would enable that body authoritatively to advise on the distribution and supply of all technical personnel. The Tribunals can issue notices to "notified factories" and other industrial undertakings in which skilled personnel as defined by the Ordinance could be found, prohibiting (1) the men already employed there from leaving without prior notice being given to the Tribunal and (2) the employers from discharging, dismissing or releasing such personnel without 15 days' prior notice being afforded the Tribunal. This combined with the endeavours of the Tribunal first to compile a census of the probable demands of "notified factories" for personnel and in the second place to determine the numbers of such personnel in industry and in

the ranks of the unemployed, enables them to have under their command for use in the efficient prosecution of war work, all available technicians and to arrange for the transfer of such to the "notified factories". That power is to be found in Section 13 of the Ordinance and it has been applied to jute mills in order to protect their position in the work they are voluntarily doing as of aid to Government in the supply of munitions and in order that their technical personnel would remain undisturbed except by regulated calls for their service instituted through the Tribunal.

7. *Notified Factory*—No factory is to be considered eligible, unless the work of national importance on which they are engaged, is substantial and unless a fair proportion of their employees are technical personnel of one or more of the classes described in the schedule to the Ordinance. Jute mills are not notified factories; for the good reason that there is no need for them to have in their normal pursuits, great recourse to technical personnel covered by the Ordinance. The Tribunal is to be regarded as the first line of approach in all matters under the Ordinance and the proper procedure, therefore, in the case of any factory which wishes to be notified is to apply to the Tribunal of its area who will forward the case to the Central Government for consideration.

8. *Section 13* of the Ordinance to which reference has been made above, reads: —

*Technical personnel not to leave or to be discharged from employment without permission of Tribunal—*

- (1) When a Tribunal had been constituted for any area, it may require any industrial undertaking (including a notified factory) in the area to post before a specified date and to keep posted on its premises a notice making known to its employees the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of this section and intimating also the place to which applications to the Tribunal may be addressed.
- (2) After any such notice has been posted no person included in the definition of technical personnel who is employed in that undertaking, shall leave his employment unless he has previously obtained the permission in writing of the Tribunal.

- (3) No owner or manager of an industrial undertaking (including a notified factory) situated within an area in respect of which a Tribunal has been constituted shall save as may be otherwise prescribed, discharge, dismiss or release any person included in the definition of technical personnel, unless he has given fifteen days previous notice in writing of the contemplated discharge, dismissal or release to the Tribunal.

Subject to any rules made in this behalf under Section 19, a Tribunal may control the engagement of technical personnel by industrial undertakings (including notified factories) in such manner as it thinks fit.

Application was accordingly made to the Bengal Tribunal with the effect that to all jute mills in Bengal an appropriate notice was served. This applies not only to the workshops but to the whole of the mill, the idea being that technical personnel might also be found in any part of the mill. Certain difficulties have been experienced in the jute mills—it can well be imagined that they would be greater in concerns which the Ordinance more particularly affects—and these were resolved by detailed instructions being issued by the Association and personal explanations given to the managers through this office and through the Association's labour officers. It is believed that a certain amount of the confusion exists because of the feeling that the section is intended only for notified factories and not for industry generally. It is one which was fully discussed at meetings with the Tribunal and it has been agreed :—

(1) *In the case of contract labour* that no obligation rests on the factory to give notice under Section 13(3) in respect of contractor's men working on a particular piece of work for a limited time; and

(2) *In the case of workers undergoing training*, prior notice of discharge of workers on trial for a period of not more than 30 days need not be given but the Tribunal should be informed when dismissed.

Workers to be summarily dismissed in the interests of factory discipline should, the Tribunal have recommended, be suspended and immediate notification of the fact conveyed to the Tribunal; and this would fulfil the obligations of the section in this regard.



Further, it is to be particularly noted the requirements of this Section only extend to technical personnel as specified in the schedule to the Ordinance.

In the administration of section 13 the following instructions were circulated to all affected mills by the Tribunal:—

1. *Section 13(2).*—Persons wishing to submit applications to the Tribunal under Section 13(2) for permission to leave their employment are advised to do so through their employers in order to save time, as the latter will probably in any case have to be consulted before the Tribunal can grant permission. In forwarding such applications employers are requested to state—

- (a) to what extent if any, they will be inconvenienced by the release, if allowed,
- (b) what, in their opinion, are the capabilities of the person seeking release and on what work he is at present engaged,
- (c) what is the present rate of pay of the person seeking release.

The person seeking release should state in his application at what address he can be found after release (if granted).

2. *Section 13(3).*—It should be noted that this section does not require the owner or manager of an industrial undertaking to obtain the Tribunal's sanction for a contemplated discharge but only to give the Tribunal 15 days *previous* notice in writing of his intention to discharge.

In order that the Tribunal may record sufficient details of persons so discharged to enable a decision to be made whether they can usefully be employed elsewhere, if required, it is requested that each notice of a contemplated discharge should contain the following information:—

- (a) Name of person to be discharged.
- (b) Age.
- (c) Date on which discharge will take effect.
- (d) Future address after discharge.

- (e) Qualifications and type of work on which he was last engaged.
- (f) Rate of pay at the time of discharge.
- (g) Brief reasons for discharge.

9. *Contract Labour—Administration of Section 13*—There are many difficulties in the application of Section 13 to contract labour but in an endeavour to simplify matters, contract labour has been divided into 2 classes, *viz.*, (1) men working normally at a particular factory more or less continuously, and (2) men working on a particular piece of work for a limited time, after which they move on to other work at another factory. Labour falling within division (1) remain subject to the provisions of section 13 but labour falling within division (2) are exempt. In accordance with Rule 12A the owner or manager of an industrial undertaking is exempted from the obligation of giving notice under section 13(3) with regard to contract labour falling within division (2) as defined above. It is noted that the Tribunal has no power to modify the application of section 13(2) but technical personnel belonging to division (2) of contract labour who wish to leave employment under the particular contractor may be regarded as obliged to apply for permission under section 13(2) with reference to that contractor and not with reference to the undertaking in which temporarily employed and the latter undertaking need not be concerned with that application.

10. *Reinstatement*.—On termination of a person's national service in a notified factory, provided that he applies within 2 months, his previous employer will be bound under section 11 to reinstate him in an occupation and under conditions not less favourable than those which would have been applicable to him if he had not been called up. The special Tribunal which decides points affecting re-instatement is to consist of 3 nominees of Government—only one of which need be an official. It has power to exempt an employer altogether from the re-instatement provisions of the Ordinance and the amount of compensation to be awarded in the event of the employer not re-instating the man is not necessarily six months salary: the special Tribunal fixes the sum which *shall not exceed* an amount equal to 6 months remuneration at the rate at which his last remuneration was payable to him by the employer (*vide Section 11.*) (Provisions will

be explained to parties during the summary enquiry provided for in Rule 4).

11. *Appeals*.—Section 9 should be read in conjunction with Rule 13. All appeals must be filed within one month of the order appealed against in one of the two forms prescribed for the purpose (D. & E.) Unless the Tribunal otherwise directs in any particular case, its orders should be given effect to, pending the decision of the Central Government on the appeals. The prescribed forms of appeal are supplied free to parties. All points of difficulty experienced by industry should be referred in the first instance to the Tribunal of the Province, who are charged with the duty of advising the Central Government on such matters and without reference to whom the Central Government as a general rule would not take action.

12. *Transfer of Personnel*.—When demands for technical personnel are made on the manager :—

1. He must satisfy the Tribunal, should he wish to retain the men in question, that the workers are actually engaged on war work or are necessary for the effective pursuit of it in the fulfilment of Government orders.
2. If the men are not so engaged, their release for work elsewhere as may be required by the Tribunal cannot so successfully be resisted.
3. When requests are made by the Tribunal that technical personnel should report at a certain specified place for *test* purposes, these should be at all times complied with; for it interferes with the whole work of the Tribunal if this is not done.
4. The fact that the men are sent for test does not necessarily mean that their transfer from present employment is imminent.
5. If, however, the mill wishes to retain such personnel, formal application should be made to the Tribunal and this again will require to reveal that the men are actually engaged on, or are necessary for war work.

13. In the *Administration of the Ordinance* many difficulties have been experienced, and it is requested that the following

points be carefully noted to facilitate a smooth working of this Ordinance without laying an undue burden on the Tribunal to explain certain necessary actions. These have often been misunderstood by employers particularly when asked to send some of their technical personnel for *tests* which should not be confused with an order for immediate *transfer*.

A. A Tribunal cannot be expected to give an official explanation for its actions, as it is in the same position as a Court: the aggrieved party can appeal to the Central Government, whereupon the Tribunal will forward its explanation to the Central Government along with the appeal preferred.

B. The Tribunal is set up for the express purpose of supplying notified factories with the men they require by taking them from non-notified factories or from such other sources as are available.

C. It is not easy to become a "notified factory", and it can be assumed that those which are notified have succeeded in convincing the Central Government, through the Supply Department, that on the whole, the work on which they are engaged is of greater national importance than that being done in other factories.

D. Under the present circumstances, nearly every factory in which technical personnel is employed is engaged on war work of some importance and the Tribunal would be unable to continue to perform its functions of supplying notified factories with men without interfering to some extent with war work being done in other factories.

E. In looking for men for a particular notified factory, the Tribunal is forced to confine its attention mainly to factories in the same vicinity, otherwise the question of transferring personnel from one part of the industrial area to another becomes too complicated and uneconomical.

F. The Tribunal does not deny that the manufacture of transit plugs and such like is of considerable importance, but does not consider that it is so vital as to prevent the Tribunal from taking men from that work in view of rule 4(3) of the Ordinance.

G. The Tribunal has, in fact, taken a certain number of turners from jute mills engaged on war work, but has taken particular care to distribute the burden as evenly as possible, and has avoided taking more than about one in ten of the turners employed in any one mill.

H. The Tribunal can never be accused of implied enticement in their dealings with technical personnel so as to compete with present employers, as there is definitely very little "offering" and "accepting" about their summary enquiries. Only one man in a hundred is pleased at being transferred by them.

14. *General.*—It is earnestly hoped that all Managing Agents and their administrative staff likely to be concerned, will take steps to acquaint themselves without delay with the provisions of this Ordinance, so that doubts and misunderstandings may not be allowed to hamper their active co-operation in this important branch of the national war effort. Again, the Association would stress the importance which attaches to the fullest explanation being afforded also to affected workers and they trust you and your managers will aid in this. The Tribunal is ready to accept advice and is anxious to perform its functions in the manner which will cause the least annoyance. There can be, it is thought, no question but that the existence of a Tribunal of this nature is justified in time of war and this being so I am to enquire if member mills have any suggestions of the manner in which they themselves consider, help could be afforded that body in its task of finding technical personnel for national service. It is more than likely that with an increasing expansion in India's armament production, further demands will be made on mills in common with all other industries not classified as "notified factories". To help the Association in any further consideration to the position of mills which circumstances might dictate as necessary, I am to ask that the following particulars should be furnished me in respect of each of your mills:—

- (1) the total number of technical personnel as described by the Ordinance employed by you;
- (2) the total number of such who on the Tribunal's orders have actually left;
- (3) the total number under orders to be transferred; and
- (4) the total number asked to submit themselves to tests.

At the same time you could please furnish me with any suggestions you may have to offer in connection with the matter referred to earlier in this paragraph and what if any steps are being taken by you to seek out those who by suitable training could replace turners, fitters etc., at present employed but subject to transfer under the Tribunal's orders.

15. *Conclusion.*—In conclusion, I would remind members that the Tribunal is charged by the legislation from which it derives its powers to see that the needs of "notified factories" in personnel are maintained. "Notified factories" take precedence in their demands for technical personnel (as other things) and since in all other factories such personnel is engaged in some form of war work, it is obvious that such work must be interfered with at some stage or another. While clearly appreciating the full significance of the mills' war work the Tribunal has the onerous task of supplying men for more important war work, and as I have said previously, it is only too anxious to ensure with industry's aid that this is done in a manner calculated to minimise inevitable disturbances. It is hoped therefore that member mills will take this opportunity of advising me how best they consider this would result.

### **LABOUR LEGISLATION: (d) Bengal Money Lenders Act, 1940.**

*Summary Prepared in the Office of the Labour  
Commissioner, Bengal.*

**To whom does it apply?**—It applies to all debtors, agriculturists, labourers, lawyers, zemindars, in fact to everyone who is a debtor. There are some debts however which are excluded, *viz.*, debts to a Scheduled Bank or to a bank which will be notified under the Act, debts to co-operative societies or insurance companies, commercial loans namely loans advanced solely for the purposes of business etc. Loans for the purchase or construction of a house or for the construction of a house together with the site within a Municipality are also excluded only if such a loan is made repayable in instalments extending over a period

of 10 years or more. These exclusions have been made in the public interest and for the protection and furtherance of trade and commerce, and the economic development of the people.

**Who can take advantage of the Act?**—All persons whose loans are still outstanding can take advantage of the Act, as well as all persons against whom suits have been filed or decrees have been passed in respect of their loans, provided that the decrees have remained unsatisfied on the first day of January, 1939. A person will get the benefit of the Act even if his property has been sold in execution of a decree for a debt, but possession had not been delivered by the 1st of January, 1939. In order, however, to reopen past unsatisfied decrees and to seek relief under the Act, the debtor must make an application within one year from the 1st of September, 1940. He can also make applications in pending suits or appeals or applications for review or execution proceedings which were pending on the 1st of January, 1939. Decrees can thus be reopened as also agreements purporting to close transactions if entered into not more than 12 years prior to the date of the suit. Even if a decree-holder has obtained possession of the property of the judgment debtor, the debtor will get back his property if he succeeds in his application for getting relief regarding interest payments etc. If it is found on calculation that a debtor has made payments after the 1st of January, 1939 in excess of what was due by him on that date in respect of a debt, he will get back the excess amount so paid. If a debtor is entitled to get relief, a fresh decree will be passed against him granting him instalments, and he will not be required to pay interest in the decretal amounts. The debtor also cannot be arrested in execution of a decree passed in any suit to which this Act applies. If a property is required to be sold in execution of a decree, then only such portion of the property will be sold as the Court considers to be of sufficient value to fetch the decretal amount.

**Money lenders and their obligations.**—Every person carrying on the business of moneylending in Bengal must register himself and take out a license. If he has no such license he cannot sue. He must at the time of the loan furnish to the borrower the terms and condition of the loan. He must give a plain and complete receipt for every payment made on account of the loan, and on repayment in full must cancel all papers

signed by the borrower and discharge every mortgage, restore any pledge, return any note given by the borrower as security. He is liable to a fine with or without imprisonment if he or any lender takes from the borrower any document which does not state the actual amount of the loan and the rate of interest charged, or any entry is left blank for completion at a later date. He may not also refer to any loan as a commercial loan if in fact it is not a commercial loan, and the burden of proving whether a loan is a commercial loan or not shall be on the moneylenders who advance the loan. Any document which is incorrect in the above particulars will be void and unenforceable. Every moneylender must within two months of the commencement of each year supply to each of his borrowers a statement of accounts in Bengali or English as the borrower may desire showing the amount outstanding against the borrower. This statement must show the amount of principal and interest due to the moneylender at the commencement of the year and sums advanced and sums paid with the dates of advance and payments and many other particulars which will leave the borrower in no doubt regarding his liabilities, and which will enable him to check up the correctness of his debt. The borrower can also demand a statement from him every six months.

**Provision regarding interest.**—These provisions apply not only to future loans but to past loans as well. They apply to those loans and transactions and suits and decrees and appeals to which reference has been made above. The liability of a debtor is determined by one or other of these provisions set out below, and no debtor will be required to pay more than the lowest amount that will be found by the application of these three clauses :—

- (I) If any person has paid as much as twice the original loan in payment of principal or interest or both, the loan will be cancelled and he will not be required to pay any further sum. It should be noted that the term "original loan" is used.

### *Examples.*

A person has borrowed Rs. 100 at 25%. He has not been able to pay interest and he has executed a fresh hand note for



Rs. 300 at, say, 20%. Thereafter he has paid Rs. 200 by way of interest or principal or principal and interest. As the original loan was only for Rs. 100 the entire debt is wiped off.

(2) A man has borrowed Rs. 100. He has paid Rs. 180 towards interest and there is a decree against him for Rs. 400. If he pays Rs. 20 more, the decree will be satisfied.

(3) A man borrows Rs. 100. He has paid Rs. 160. A further payment of Rs. 40 will absolve him from the debt whatever may be the amount due by way of principal or interest on the hand note itself.

(II) No person will be liable to pay by way of interest any sum greater than the principal outstanding on a particular date.

*Example.*

A man borrows Rs. 100, and has paid by a certain date Rs. 120, Rs. 70 towards principal and Rs. 50 towards interest. There is due from him on the bond a further sum of Rs. 100 by way of interest. If a suit is filed, the creditor cannot recover more than Rs. 30 by way of interest under this rule. He will therefore recover Rs. 30 of his principal amount due and Rs. 30 interest. Under the first mentioned rule the debtor would have had to pay Rs. 80 to discharge his full debt. So he will take advantage of this rule in this particular and similar cases.

(III) The maximum rate of interest now allowable is 8% in the case of secured loans like mortgages, or pledges and 10% in the case of unsecured loans, *i.e.*, no one can charge more than Rs. 10 interest in a whole year on a loan Rs. 100 if no security has been given and not more than Rs. 8 in a whole year if security has been given an interest of 10% per annum represents only 1·6 pies or a little over half pice, or a little more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas in one whole year per rupee per month as interest. 8% per annum represents 1·28 pies per rupee per month, that is about 5 pice interest in a whole year on one rupee. This is all that a debtor will be required to pay.

As an example, suppose that a labourer has borrowed Rs. 10 at the rate of one anna per rupee per month. Under the terms of his bond he will have to pay 10 annas as interest for the month. Under the Act he will pay 16 pies if it is an unsecured debt, *i.e.*, one anna four pies per month. Suppose that the debtor pays the moneylender 80 annas as interest after eight months. Under the Act he need not pay more than 10 annas 8 pies or, say 11 annas. Eleven annas therefore will be calculated as paid towards interest and the excess, *viz.*, 69 annas will go towards the deduction of the principal, that means to say that after this payment a sum of only 5 rupees 11 annas will be due towards principal, and the interest of 10% will be calculated on this Rs. 5/11/0. Rs. 5/11/0 gives an interest of 9 pies or 3 pice per month. Suppose that the same debtor believing that he is bound to pay according to the rate of his bond, namely, one anna per rupee per month on Rs. 10 pays 40 annas after four months by way of interest to the moneylender. Now in four months all that he was required to pay by way of interest was 3 annas. Therefore, three annas will go towards payment of interest, and 37 annas or Rs. 2/5/0 will go towards payment of principal reducing that principal to Rs. 3/6/0. In this way although the debtor is going on paying towards interest, both the interest and the principal will be wiped off. Most debtors therefore who have been paying a high rate of interest fairly regularly will find that they have paid off all the principal and the interest if they calculate their payments in the above manner. It does not matter if a decree has been passed. That decree if unsatisfied by the 1st of January, 1939 will be reopened and calculations will be made on the above system to ascertain how much is due by way of principal or interest. It should be noted that compound interest is not forbidden, but whether forbidden or not the creditor cannot recover more money than would be payable to him if the interest was calculated at 10% for an unsecured loan or 8% for a secured loan. Therefore in making the calculations the relevant dates on which payments have been made from time to time should be taken and any payment found in excess of the amount of interest due on such dates of payment will have to be credited to the principal and thereby the outstanding principal will have to be arrived at. Under the second clause no interest greater than the outstanding principal is payable. Under the first clause all sums paid will be calculated and on no

account can there be a greater liability than the amount which is arrived at after all payments are deducted from the original principal.

Original principal excludes any interest which may have been included in a renewed bond. It also excludes any amount that might have been deducted by the lender at the time of advancing the loan by way of advance interest etc.

**Reliefs to which a debtor is entitled.**—(1) Relief in the amount payable by way of principal and interest as has been described above.

(2) Where the loan is advanced before 1st of September, 1940, there will be no interest allowed on the decretal amount.

(3) Where the loan is advanced after 1st September, 1940, only 6% interest will be allowed on the principal amount decreed.

(4) No sums will be payable by the borrower to the lender on account of costs, charges or expenses incidental to the negotiations for the loan, capitalist charges, commission etc. If any such sum of money has been paid by the borrower he will either get a refund of it or it will be set off against the amount actually lent and the amount shall be reduced accordingly. Costs of investigating titles, stamp duty, and registration of documents if agreed to may be paid.

(5) In the case of mortgage decrees the Court shall grant annual instalments payable on such dates as the Court thinks fit having regard to the circumstances of the plaintiff and the defendant and the amount of the decree, but if the defendant makes default in the payments of such instalments, the whole amount will be declared due and payable, but the Court will have the power to allow extension of time. The Court shall not pass a final decree if before the passing of the final decree; the debtor pays into Court the instalment in respect of which he has committed default.

(6) In respect of other loans advanced before the 1st of September, 1940, the Court shall allow instalments of the amount due without interest. The instalments may be allowed up to 20 years as the Court thinks fit, having regard to the circumstances of the plaintiff and the defendant. If the default is made in the

payment of such instalments, that instalment and not the whole of the decretal amount shall be recoverable. This law is applicable even though a decree has been passed and is subsisting. If the instalment is not paid, a decree holder can apply for execution of that instalment and he will get interest at 6% per annum from the date of the default. The Court may, however, allow extension of time of not less than one year for the payment of the instalment also. The Court will not make the final order if before the final order for execution is made the judgment debtor pays the instalment.

(7) Only such portion of the property may be sold as in the opinion of the Court is saleable at a price sufficient to satisfy the decree. If the property is not sold for the price, the decree holder will have to give up the balance of his claim.

(8) All transactions and accounts, any suits or proceedings, in execution or otherwise which were pending on the 1st January, 1939 can be reopened whether they were for the recovery of a loan or for foreclosure or sale in case of mortgages by a lender or any suit for redemption by a borrower, whatever may be the subsequent action taken by the Courts in such suits.

(9) Refund of any amount paid by the debtor or judgment debtor after the 1st January, 1939 in excess of his liability.

(10) Restoration to the judgment debtor of such property, if any, which a decree holder has acquired from the judgment debtor in execution of a decree and which may be in possession of the decree holder on the date on which the decree was reopened. In such a case the Court shall order such instalments for payment of the debt as it thinks fit. If however, default is made in the payment of any instalment after the judgment debtor has been put in possession of his original property, he shall have to give up that property so originally sold.

(11) Any borrower may apply to a Court on payment of a fee of one Rupee to have an account taken between himself and his lender.

(12) The sum of money declared to be payable by the borrower to the lender on the taking of such account can be deposited by the borrower in Court. Similarly, the sum of money

which a borrower has tendered and the lender has refused to take can be deposited in Court and interest shall not run from the date of the deposit.

**Molestation.**—A creditor cannot molest a debtor to enforce payment under pressure. He cannot use violence against, or obstruct the debtor. He cannot follow him persistently, or interfere with the debtor's use of property in any way, nor can he loiter near the place of business or residence of the debtor. Such molestations will be penal offences punishable with fine or imprisonment or with both.

**Loans in kind.**—The Act also applies to loans in kind. The actual value of a loan in kind will be ascertained in terms of money and the Act applied. If repayments have been made in kind from time to time, such repayments in kind will also be calculated in terms of money, the actual value of the goods ascertained and allowed for in the accounts.

The object of the Act is to protect labourers and other poor people from the exactions of money lenders. Any jute mill worker who wishes to seek relief under the provisions of the Act should apply for advice and information to the Manager of his mill or his labour officer or the labour officers of the Indian Jute Mills Association but the following is published so that mill workers may know their position under the Act and the protection given to them by the Government.

If you take money from a money lender he must furnish you with the terms and conditions of the loan. When you repay him anything he must give you a receipt for every payment and when you have repaid all he must cancel all the papers signed by you, restore any pledge and return any note given by you as security.

If you owe a money lender money he must give you a statement of his account within two months of the beginning of each year and if you desire it he must give you a statement every six months.

No money lender may now charge you on a new loan or on an old loan more than 10% simple interest on an unsecured loan or 8% on a secured loan *i.e.*, for an unsecured loan of Rs. 10 you

will have to pay only -/1/4 per month and no more by way of interest. You should never pay compound interest.

If you have already paid either double or more than double the amount taken by you as a loan either as interest or principal or both interest and principal, you are not required to pay anything more.

You may apply to a Court on the payment of a fee of one rupee to have an account taken between yourself and the money lender for declaring the amount due to the lender.

If the money lender takes from you any document which does not correctly state the amount of the loan and the interest charged or any entry is left blank you should at once inform your Manager or labour officer of the fact and he will be fined or imprisoned.

The money lender cannot molest you by obstructing you or using violence or making jhoolum, by following you from place to place or by loitering near the mill or the mill lines to recover his debt from you and if he does you should complain to the mill manager or the labour officer who will have him arrested.

**Publications.**

**GENERAL.**

1. Book of Reference.
2. Register of Loose Jute Sellers, 1941-42.
3. Index to Labour Laws.

**RESEARCH.**

**Private and Confidential Reports.**

1. The chemical composition of jute fibre.
2. The rotting of jute : its causes and its prevention.
3. The waterproofing of jute. A review of the experiments of the Indian Jute Mills Association with notes on machinery and mixes used.
4. The lining of jute with paper.
5. The woollenising and cottonisation of jute.
6. A survey of jute softening.
7. The importance of water in emulsions for application to jute.
8. An elementary study of jute fibre.
9. An introduction to emulsions and emulsification.
10. Quarterly laboratory reports.
11. The manufacture of roofing felts in India : Part I.
12. Needle felts ; the woolpack problem ; jute in the boot and shoe industry ; weaving inks for sack printing in the tropics.
13. Quarterly laboratory reports. (Second issue).
14. Technical aspects of batching emulsions.
15. Laboratory progress reports. (Third issue).
16. General report of the Calcutta Research Department, 1937-39.
17. Treatment of jute sewing thread and jute fabrics.
18. Report of London Research Department.
19. Laboratory progress report. (Fourth issue).
20. Annual Report.

**Secret Reports.**

1. The colouration of jute for commercial purposes, especially in relation to camouflage.
2. Report of experiments on the manufacture of roofing felts for use in India.
3. Report on viscose treatment and addenda.
4. Jute canvas : its production and proofing.
5. The bleaching of jute ; the Weber-Laporte process.
6. Rotproofing of jute sandbags.



**GLOSSARY OF JUTE TRADE TERMS: Revised, June 1941.****I.—WEIGHTS, MEASURES ETC.**

*Boja*.—A number of morahs, varying from 15 to 17, made into a compact bundle bound with strands of fibre similar to that which it contains.

*Dollop*.—A definite weight of jute fibre which is spread evenly on the feed cloth of the breaker card while the surface of the feed roller travels a definite distance. Thus a definite weight for a definite length of sliver is obtained.

*Drum*.—Jute weighing about one maund packed by hand into the form of a drum. Daisce jute delivered to the Calcutta market usually arrives in this manner.

*Double Warp*.—Two ends or threads passing into one heddle.

*Kutchu Bale*.—A bale of jute, exclusively designed for mill consumption in India, packed to a relatively high density (which may vary from 6 to 20 cubic feet) by hand or power driven presses. Kutchu bales usually weigh  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , 3 or 4 mds. each.

*Morah*.—A lightly twisted bundle of from four to seven seers of jute. After grading, jute is made up into morahs prior to baling.

*Plain Weave*.—Fabrics manufactured by the aid of two cambs only. The shotting is inserted alternately as the odd threads of warp are up and the even threads down and *vice versa*.

*Porter*.—Contains 20 splits in any loom reed, fine or coarse. The basis of this measure is 37" and the porter of any cloth is the number of warp threads in a given space, *i.e.* 37/40 of an inch. This indicates the texture of the fabric so far as the warp is concerned.

*Pucca Bale*.—A bale of jute, usually intended for export, packed in a hydraulic press to a density of approximately  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet, and weighing 400 lbs. nett.

*Shots*.—Denotes one thread of weft yarn running the whole width of the cloth. The number of weft threads or shots in one inch indicate the texture of the fabric so far as the weft is concerned.

*Split*.—A split is one space between the wires of a loom reed, 20 of which make a porter.

*Twill Weave*.—Fabrics manufactured by the aid of three or more cambs. When three cambs only are used, the fabric is referred to as a simple twill. Two thirds of the warp threads are on one side of the cloth and two thirds of the weft threads on the other ; this is accomplished by sinking two warp threads and raising one every time the shuttle containing the weft passes between the warp threads.

## II.—JUTE, RAW.

*Buckchhal*.—Is a blemish on jute where the bark still remains on the fibre owing to the plants having been grown in flood water and subsequently exposed to the sun when the water receded.

*Corchorus Capsularis*.—One of the two cultivated species of jute grown on low, medium and high lands. It is known usually as “white jute”.

*Corchorus Olitorius*.—The other cultivated species of jute which is grown on high lands only. The fibre extracted from this plant is known as “tossa jute” or “daisee jute”.

*Croppy*.—Fibre with top ends rough and hard.

*Cuttings*.—Usually hard and woody root ends of jute with or without a small amount of clean fibre attached.

*Deora Land*.—Denotes low lying land adjacent to rivers which has formed as a result of silting.

*Daisee*.—Jute of the *Corchorus Olitorius* variety grown on high lands in the neighbourhood of Calcutta in the districts of Howrah, Hooghly and the 24-Parganas as well as in the lower parts of the districts of Khulna, Jessore and Nadia.

*District Jute*.—Fibre of a quality, as a rule slightly lower than jat, grown in Noakhali, Lower Tipperah and part of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Backerganj districts.

*Dowrah Jute*.—A harsh class of jute grown in the low lying areas of the Faridpur district.

*Eastern Jute*.—A general term applied to the jute grown in the Eastern Districts of Bengal i.e. Mymensingh, Tipperah, Dacca and part of Faridpur.

*Firsts*.—A recognised pucca bale mark consisting of medium quality, clean cut strong fibred jute of mixed colour.

*Ful Pat*.—Jute cut at its flowering stage, generally excellent in colour.

*Hard Jute*.—Fibre of firm texture, free from fluffiness such as is grown in most districts of Eastern Bengal.

*Hearts*.—A recognised pucca bale mark consisting of low grade soft jute.

*Hunka*.—Fibre from which the hard bark and dried bast of the jute plant has not been removed.

*Hubby Jubby*.—Jute which has become tangled in the process of assortment.

*Jat Jute*.—The term applied to high quality jute, both white and tossa, grown in parts of Mymensingh, Tipperah and Dacca.

*Lightnings*.—A recognised pucca bale mark consisting of jute of medium northern qualities.

*Northern Jute*.—This is the descriptive name of jute produced in the districts of Pabna, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur.

*Rooty*.—A term applied to heavily rooted jute.

*Runners*.—Strands of jute with the outer bark of the plant adhering to the fibre. Runners result from insufficient retting, coupled with careless stripping and inadequate washing.

*Shamla Jute*.—Grey coloured fibre.

*Soft Jute*.—The term applied to jute which is soft to the feel and the strands of which do not separate cleanly on account of fluffiness.

*Specky Jute*.—Jute having small patches of outer bark adhering to the fibre.

*Sticky Jute*.—Fibre containing small pieces of pith or stick as a result insufficient washing.

*Tossad or Bogi*.—The name given to fibre derived from the *Corchorus Olitorious* species, known as Bogi in East and North Bengal.

*Western Jute.*—Jute grown in Western Bengal districts and in Behar.

*Weedings.*—Jute fibre extracted from immature plants plucked at the time of thinning the crop.

*White Jute.*—The name given to fibre derived from the *Corchorus Capsularis* species.

### III—JUTE MANUFACTURES.

*Burlap.*—The trade term in America for manufactured jute goods.

*Gunnies.*—The trade term in general use in India for manufactured jute goods.

*Heavy Goods.*—The trade term applied generally to sacking cloth and bags.

*Hessians.*—Jute fabrics of superior quality made from fine yarns.



**STATISTICS.**



## STATEMENT I.

*Local consumption of raw jute including cuttings as returned yearly  
by members of the Indian Jute Mills Association.*

Period.				Estimated consumption.	Quantity actually consumed.	Quantity of raw jute purchased.
				Mds. Not compiled	Mds.	Mds.
1st July 1940 to 30th June 1941	...				26,920,987	38,240,563
Do. 1939 do. 1940	...			do.	35,074,206	34,536,721
Do. 1938 do. 1939	...			do.	30,264,764	26,912,294
Do. 1937 do. 1938	...			do.	32,510,965	28,707,323
Do. 1936 do. 1937	...			do.	29,466,639	26,985,382
Do. 1935 do. 1936	...			do.	24,365,926	19,568,990
Do. 1934 do. 1935	...			do.	22,271,596	24,705,390
Do. 1933 do. 1934	...			do.	20,986,168	19,945,416
Do. 1932 do. 1933	...			do.	21,226,622	23,644,750
Do. 1931 do. 1932	...			do.	20,751,775	15,022,168
Do. 1930 do. 1931	...			do.	22,185,965	31,132,414
Do. 1929 do. 1930	...			do.	31,227,937	29,807,888
Do. 1928 do. 1929	...			do.	29,395,562	27,773,859
Do. 1927 do. 1928	...			do.	28,163,184	30,818,849
Do. 1926 do. 1927	...			do.	26,868,032	37,177,943
Do. 1925 do. 1926	...			do.	26,721,666	26,675,729
Do. 1924 do. 1925	...			do.	27,594,129	23,947,333
Do. 1923 do. 1924	...			do.	25,023,395	25,582,510
Do. 1922 do. 1923	...			do.	23,076,779	14,936,384
Do. 1921 do. 1922	...			do.	21,182,788	22,272,507
Do. 1920 do. 1921	..			31,902,756	27,334,420	25,225,549
Do. 1919 do. 1920	...			25,573,767	25,408,613	30,447,150
Do. 1918 do. 1919	...			29,121,851	24,982,784	24,714,599
Do. 1917 do. 1918	...			27,774,906	26,480,938	30,710,228
Do. 1916 do. 1917	..			28,266,148	27,602,417	26,767,577
Do. 1915 do. 1916	...			25,330,700	28,049,216	26,640,695
Do. 1914 do. 1915	...			23,341,983	24,033,747	30,050,849
Do. 1913 do. 1914	...			24,145,925	21,874,126	21,974,971
Do. 1912 do. 1913	...			21,551,561	22,173,192	23,705,750
Do. 1911 do. 1912	...			19,966,509	18,780,546	20,807,631
Do. 1910 do. 1911	...			22,277,913	19,898,029	18,361,644
Do. 1909 do. 1910	...			21,354,300	22,299,556	21,347,339
Do. 1908 do. 1909	...			19,005,784	17,967,870	18,249,226
Do. 1907 do. 1908	...			18,745,531	18,292,219	19,524,247
Do. 1906 do. 1907	...			18,980,642	17,158,133	19,184,601
1st Aug. 1905 do. 1906	...			18,136,791	14,786,135	17,135,524
Do. 1904 to 31st July 1905	...			15,787,864	15,384,280	14,428,035
Do. 1903 do. 1904	...			14,751,026	14,462,837	...



## STATEMENT II

*Imports of jute by rail into Calcutta (in thousands of maunds.)*

Month.		1940-1941.	1939-1940.	1938-1939.	1937-1938.	1936-1937.
July	...	484	595	1,139	349	439
August	...	1,092	1,777	1,802	1,401	1,598
September	...	1,374	3,087	2,426	3,003	2,695
October	...	2,192	3,484	3,213	3,424	3,943
November	...	2,118	4,007	2,523	3,047	3,367
December	...	2,398	2,967	1,590	2,091	2,579
January	...	2,370	2,244	1,835	1,498	2,076
February	...	1,481	875	1,780	1,494	1,471
March	...	1,335	809	1,029	1,697	1,642
April	...	1,944	654	563	889	1,441
May	...	1,176	747	303	707	794
June	...	1,425	273	80	791	321
TOTAL	...	19,339	21,519	18,288	20,391	22,366

## STATEMENT III.

*Imports of jute by vessels into Calcutta (in thousands of maunds).*

Month.	1940-1941.	1939-1940.	1938-1939.	1937-1938.	1936-1937.
July ...	778	857	1,482	824	1,244
August ...	2,277	2,420	2,300	1,660	1,869
September ...	2,155	4,484	3,103	3,287	3,790
October ...	2,274	5,290	3,762	4,677	4,391.
November ...	2,320	4,160	3,240	3,214	3,268
December ...	2,158	2,971	1,993	2,157	2,420
January ...	3,005	1,426	2,098	1,952	2,700
February ...	2,819	1,075	2,203	1,716	1,919
March ...	1,931	1,032	1,429	2,135	1,576
April ...	1,977	1,273	869	1,931	1,429
May ...	1,928	578	540	1,182	1,682
June ...	1,514	231	201	1,098	842
TOTAL ...	25,136	25,827	23,220	25,833	27,127

## STATEMENT IV.

*Imports of jute by country boat into Calcutta (in thousands of maunds).*

Month.	1940-1941	1939-1940.	1938-1939.	1937-1938.	1936-1937.
July ...	5	0	21	12	23
August ...	2	3	45	21	31
September ...	14	37	70	62	125
October ...	114	171	257	265	378
November ...	186	334	386	507	433
December ...	247	233	253	316	356
January ...	244	129	172	182	232
February ...	124	48	137	98	116
March ...	104	16	61	89	107
April ...	62	15	11	48	74
May ...	50	11	8	31	54
June ...	49	8	2	23	27
TOTAL ...	1,201	1,005	1,423	1,654	1,956

## STATEMENT V.

*Imports of jute into Calcutta and the mills' stations during 25 years  
from 1916-1917 to 1940-41.*

Season.	Road.	Vessel.	Rail.	Boat.	Total.
July to June.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1940-1941 ...	Not available	2,51,36,456	1,93,39,262	12,00,103	4,56,75,821
1939-1940 ...	Do.	2,58,27,217	2,15,19,422	10,04,576	4,83,51,215
1938-1939 ...	Do.	2,32,20,166	1,82,83,080	14,23,054	4,29,26,300
1937-1938 ...	Do.	2,58,33,176	2,03,90,527	16,54,027	4,78,77,730
1936-1937 ...	Do.	2,71,26,776	2,23,66,215	19,56,059	5,14,49,050
1935-1936 ...	Do.	2,17,40,705	1,56,07,297	19,88,588	3,93,36,590
1934-1935 ...	Do.	2,26,24,879	2,16,84,349	24,08,195	4,67,17,423
1933-1934 ...	Do.	2,04,14,586	1,99,81,981	21,54,427	4,25,50,994
1932-1933 ...	Do.	2,01,36,984	2,05,47,918	13,52,384	4,20,37,286
1931-1932 ...	Do.	1,44,51,820	1,48,15,472	20,28,328	3,12,95,620
1930-1931 ...	Do.	2,53,27,924	2,20,33,272	17,54,250	4,91,15,446
1929-1930 ...	Do.	2,21,26,486	2,66,56,950	16,90,797	5,04,74,238
1928-1929 ...	Do.	2,41,99,844	2,54,67,371	16,66,582	5,13,33,797
1927-1928 ...	Do.	2,42,26,410	2,82,88,175	18,06,924	5,43,21,509
1926-1927 ...	Do.	2,57,62,726	3,20,39,893	16,38,869	5,94,40,988
1925-1926 ...	Do.	1,89,75,086	2,30,55,521	16,22,201	4,36,52,808
1924-1925 ...	Do.	1,81,26,887	2,31,61,880	8,66,179	4,21,54,446
1923-1924 ...	Do.	2,05,48,705	2,13,09,838	10,81,429	4,29,39,522
1922-1923 ...	2,04,055	1,27,07,686	1,52,50,734	5,18,962	2,86,81,437
1921-1922 ...	2,95,611	1,59,23,145	1,87,22,534	10,95,066	3,60,36,346
1920-1921 ...	5,04,379	1,71,17,607	1,90,87,104	16,02,832	3,83,12,222
1919-1920 ...	4,61,994	1,81,50,878	2,40,07,504	15,45,028	4,41,64,904
1918-1919 ...	3,48,243	1,85,93,920	1,71,20,600	13,48,753	3,74,11,516
1917-1918 ...	4,48,183	2,14,48,400	1,93,49,726	16,82,921	4,29,29,230
1916-1917 ...	8,39,816	1,72,31,060	2,17,84,674	16,08,312	4,14,63,862







